

COMMENT OF
THE DAY

Re-Appraisal

THERE is cause for satisfaction in the announcement that although President Eisenhower has been advised by his doctors to "go slow" in his executive duties, his health will permit him to meet Sir Anthony Eden in Washington next month as originally arranged. It is a necessary meeting because of the change in the international situation brought about by the failure of the Geneva Big Four foreign ministers' conference.

The situation has not deteriorated disastrously; nevertheless it is obvious the hoped-for improvement has not come about. Western policy since the "summit" meeting has been based on the assumption that in consequence of that historic conference there would be signs of progress and of a "new impulse" towards ending the "cold war." It is this assumption which now has to be reviewed, though not necessarily abandoned. The "summit" talks had a limited purpose—to lay down procedure and create an atmosphere which would facilitate negotiation at the next stage. The Russians coined the phrase "the Geneva spirit" and endeavoured to pretend it was something more than an atmosphere. It proved to be ephemeral. There was little of the "spirit of Geneva" visible during the foreign ministers' meeting last month and the Russians made it transparently clear that it had served its purpose and could be abandoned.

THIS in itself is sufficient to make a re-appraisal of the situation imperative, and the questions which will occupy the attention of President Eisenhower and Sir Anthony Eden will be: Should another attempt be made to go forward on the same lines, still using the "summit" meeting as a starting point? Should another "summit" meeting be suggested? Should the Western powers cast about to try and find an alternative method of approach which could be proposed to Moscow? Or will it be wiser, and more hopeful, to do nothing, but to wait a move from the Soviet government?

Failure of the "second Geneva" is not the only factor which has to be taken into account. There is the change in tone of the Soviet Press and radio. There is a sudden Russian activity in the Middle East. There is the markedly anti-British flavour of a whole sequence of speeches and comments during the Bulganin-Khrushchev tour of India and Burma. Significantly this change began even before the foreign ministers' conference in Geneva.

HELPING to render null and void the "Geneva spirit" is a new Soviet diplomatic offensive directed towards the Middle East and southern Asia. It is curiously reminiscent of the "Asian reorientation" of Soviet policy and Communist propaganda 35 years ago.

That policy was not inspired by any real sympathy for Asian nationalism. Indeed, the Soviet government was then busily engaged in suppressing such movements in Caucasus and Central Asia. The thesis then was that the "shortest way to Paris and London" may be through Kabul, Calcutta and Bombay. Its initiator was Trotsky, and it is a pliant thought that Bulganin and Khrushchev are following a Trotskyist line.

Whatever its source, and whatever its motives, this sudden outburst of Soviet activity in Arab-Asian countries, this new "Asian reorientation" must be considered in any re-appraisal of West-East relations, and it is bound to influence the coming Eisenhower-Eden talks.

SECURITY COUNCIL DRAMA

Nationalists And Soviet Russia Apply Veto ALL APPLICATIONS FOR UNITED NATIONS MEMBERSHIP REJECTED

New York, Dec. 13.

Russia vetoed 15 Western-sponsored candidates for United Nations membership today after Nationalist China vetoed the admission of Outer Mongolia.

After two days' hard debate and parliamentary manoeuvring, a vote in the United Nations Security Council late today brought the collapse of a package membership proposal for 18 nations which had been supported by 52 countries in the General Assembly.

A last-minute amendment to the package deal resolution by the Nationalists added South Korea and South Vietnam to the original list.

The Council elected to vote first on South Korea, putting Russia in the position of being the first country to use the veto. The Soviet delegate Mr Arkady Sobolev vetoed both South Korea and Vietnam.

Albania on a preliminary vote, received favourable 9-0 vote, with the Nationalists and the United States abstaining. The Nationalists then vetoed Outer Mongolia. And Russia then applied the veto against all the other Western candidates. Although Bulgaria, Rumania and Hungary received the same vote on preliminary ballots as Albania, the applications of all four Balkan countries were rejected in the Security Council's final vote on the membership resolution.

The final vote was Russia in favour, four countries against, and six abstaining.

THE CLIMAX

The Soviet veto rejected the applications of Austria, Jordan, Cambodia, Ceylon, Finland, Iceland, Japan, Spain, Nepal, Libya, Laos, Portugal, Italy, South Korea and South Vietnam. This was the climax to the most ambitious membership drive in UN history, with 52 countries supporting the admission of new members.

The vote on paragraph 1 which "notes" the Assembly recommendation on membership was 11 in favour, none against, and 3 abstentions. Abstaining were Belgium, China and the U.S.

The Council then adopted by a vote of 11 to 0, with two abstentions.

POLICE FREE DR JOHN

Bonn, Dec. 13. Dr Otto John, former West German security chief, who returned to West Germany yesterday after 16 months in East Germany, was released by the Police today.

His release followed an interrogation by two members of the Federal Supreme Court, who had been investigating his flight to the Soviet zone in July, 1954.

Later today it was decided to cancel the warrant for his arrest. It was felt that there was no longer any danger that he would again attempt to escape investigation.

Informal circles in Bonn believe that Dr John will shortly be asked to appear before the parliamentary commission investigating his flight.

"Of all the lost sheep of the West, Dr John is the only one to come back to the West," the chairman of the commission, Dr Bucerius said. "This fact certainly will have favourable repercussions in the West for the prestige of the Federal Republic," he said. — France-Press.

Now Mrs John Disappears

London, Dec. 13. The wife of Dr Otto John left her flat at Hampstead, London, yesterday and has not been seen since, it was learned today.

Mrs John came to Britain after her husband fled to East Germany. She took a flat which she had previously occupied with her husband when they lived in Britain from 1944 to 1949. Last August, Mrs John spent a holiday of one month in Germany.

Mrs John, the servant at her flat, told reporters today that Mrs John had simply left. A note to say she was going away and asking her to look after the flat—France-Press.

abstentions, the beginning of the second paragraph reading "having considered separately the applications for membership of..." It then began voting on the individual names.

THE VOTING:

KOREA, 9 for, 1 against, 1 abstention. Voted by Soviet Union. New Zealand had abstained.

VIETNAM, 9 for, 1 against, 1 abstention. Voted by Soviet Union. New Zealand had abstained.

OUTER MONGOLIA, vetoed by Nationalist China.

ALBANIA, approved by 7 votes to 0, with 4 abstentions. Tension was so high in the Council chamber at this stage that great gasps of dismay for the Russian votes on Korea and Vietnam, and an even mightier "Ohhhhhh" on the voting of Mongolia, brought determined appeals from Sir Leslie Knox Munro for order.

JORDAN, vetoed by Soviet Union.

IRELAND, vetoed by Soviet Union.

PORTUGAL, 10 for, 1 against, no abstentions. Voted by Soviet Union.

ITALY, vetoed by Soviet Union.

HUNGARY, approved by 9 votes to 0, with 2 abstentions.

AUSTRIA, 10 for, 1 against, no abstentions. Voted by Soviet Union.

ROMANIA, approved by 9 votes to 0, with 2 abstentions.

BULGARIA, approved by 9 votes to 0, with two abstentions.

FINLAND, 10 for, 1 against, no abstentions. Voted by Soviet Union.

CEYLON, 10 for, 1 against, no abstentions. Voted by Soviet Union.

NEPAL, vetoed by Soviet Union.

LIBYA, vetoed by Soviet Union.

JAPAN, vetoed by Soviet Union.

CAMBODIA, vetoed by Soviet Union.

LAOS, vetoed by Soviet Union.

SPAIN, 9 for, 1 against, 1 abstention. Voted by Soviet Union.

The Council then voted on the application list as it stood, naming only Albania, Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria, as approved in the one-by-one vote.

The paragraph as a whole was rejected with only one vote in favour, the Soviet Union's, four against, and six abstentions.

This left nothing for the Council to recommend to the Assembly on membership.

CONSTERNATION

France-Press adds: Consternation reigned in the U.N. after the collapse of the attempt to admit 18 new members.

Up to the very last moment, other delegations had clung to the hope that the Nationalists would not carry out their threat to veto the admission of Outer Mongolia in the Security Council.

The actual veto was one of the most solemn and dramatic moments in the history of the United Nations.

After the Chairman of the Security Council, Sir Leslie Knox Monroe of New Zealand, had taken the vote in favour of Outer Mongolia, he rapped out the word "Against".

Complete silence settled over the delegate of Nationalist China, a solitary figure, his face completely expressionless, rose and calmly extended his arm.

NOISY GALLERIES

There was a low murmur from the crowd when jammed public galleries to overflowing and the noise grew until the Chairman had to call the spectators to order.

The hall of the Security Council has not been so crowded since the historic session in 1950 when the Council decided to intervene in Korea. Most of the members of the 60 delegations came to the session and stood behind the 11 members of the Council.

Despite repeated calls to order from the Chairman, the public in the galleries took a noisy part in the session. There were murmurs when the Soviet delegate, Mr Sobolev, successively vetoed all the candidates except the Communist ones. There was a general shout of laughter when Sobolev, by mistake, raised his hand in favour of admitting Spain—United Press and France-Press.

SEAT JEOPARDISED?

Reuter adds: Diplomatic sources here believe that Nationalist China's veto of Outer Mongolia might jeopardise its own seat in the world organisation.

Before today's vote the United States had been appealing to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek to avoid wrecking the package deal.

It urged him to accept the seating of Outer Mongolia as part of the price to be paid for overcoming Soviet opposition to the admission of Western supported nations including Japan.

PEDESTRIAN PAYS UP

Cleveland, Dec. 13. Judge Louis Petrash of the Cleveland police court today sentenced a pedestrian to a \$15 fine for bumping a car by bumping into it when crossing a street without waiting for the green light.

The pedestrian, Arthur Kovat, was also obliged to pay the cost of repairing the car, amounting to \$27.55. Kovat was not injured in the collision. — France-Press.

VALUE OF THE H-BOMB

London, Dec. 13. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Geoffrey Fisher, said today: "I believe that every day, if we do not use the H-bomb as a deterrent, we are in danger of losing our lives."

Speaking on the Church's answer to communism, he said: "When it is used, it becomes absolutely useless. It becomes as useless as a volcano which wipes out life and does no more. So long as it deters, it buys time, which is the only thing that is valuable. The Archbishop, who was addressing a meeting of the Royal United Services In-

situation, added: "In this situation, I am happy that we can judge this matter of the use of the bomb more dispassionately than any other nation because if it were to be used, this island would be one of the first to be obliterated."

The Church believed that communism had to be resisted by every appropriate means. "The Church recognises that our statement and country must, under God, take every possible political step to deliver us from the threat of communism. In addition, it is the absolute duty to go to the limit to preserve peace for that, in the end, is the only safe course."

Tengku To Meet Chin Peng

Singapore, Dec. 13. Malaysia's Chief Minister, Tengku Abdul Rahman, announced tonight that Federation and Singapore ministers would meet the Communist leaders, Chin Peng, during Christmas week at Krob, near Kilian Man, in north Malaya.

The Tengku made this announcement after it had been reported that Government suggestions for the meeting had been accepted by Chin Peng's representative at preliminary talks held at Krob.

Special precautionary measures had been taken at Krob airfield during today's final meeting between Communist and government representatives.

The Christmas week meeting will be subject to a limited cease-fire and safe conduct for the Communist representatives to the meeting place. — France-Press.

Votes Swing In Favour Of Dr Evatt

Sydney, Dec. 13.

Dr Herbert Evatt, leader of Australia's Labour Party today appeared likely to retain his parliamentary seat by the narrowest of margins.

As absentee and postal votes from Saturday's election trickled into the electoral office, Dr Evatt improved his position in the race for the seat at Barton, Sydney and he is now only 482 votes behind the combined total of his opponents.

To win he needs a clear majority of the poll and if that cannot be achieved on the first count, he will need only about 10 percent of the second preference votes cast for an independent candidate who trailed far behind Dr Evatt and his Liberal opponent Mr William Arthur.

SENATE DANGER

The position was more obscure in the race for Senate seats, where Mr Robert Menzies' coalition Government is in danger of losing its majority.

The Liberal-Country party coalition won a majority of about 30 seats in the House of Representatives in the election compared with only six in the last House.

In Victoria, the leaders of the Anti-Communist Labour Party, Mr Francis McManus, had a chance of gaining a Senate seat which would upset the Government majority there.

If he wins, the seat, the Senate will be deadlocked with the Government depending on Mr McManus and Senator George Cole, an Anti-Communist member from Tasmania to give it a majority over the Labour Party. — Reuter.

Death Of Nobel Prize Winner

Lisbon, Dec. 13. Professor Egas Moniz, who received the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1949 for his neurological research, died here tonight. He was 81 years old. — France-Press.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

Dr Fisher said communism did eliminate some evils from society but it created a lot more.

When the Communist revolution took place in China, "our best Christian brothers" there were for it. They said it could not be worse than the corrupt system it replaced. "In the long run, they may find indeed that it was worse, not better."

"But it has eliminated for a time at least a certain number of corrupting influences in human society substituting for it an iron discipline, which does produce a certain degree of social order," China Daily said.

TUG STEAMING TO HELP OF STRICKEN SHIP

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Dec. 13.

A Halifax tug sped through stormy seas south of Newfoundland tonight to assist the stricken British freighter Lord Church, the first of two ships to send out distress signals on the Atlantic Coast in the last 36 hours.

The 6,200-ton freighter was reported rolling helplessly in a mountainous swell about 300 miles south of Newfoundland. Her superstructure was wrecked and two of her 28-man crew were reported injured.

The Foundation Maritime tug Foundation Frances left Halifax yesterday to assist the ship. OFFICER BADLY BURNED

Moderating seas have raised the hopes of the 28-man crew of the Lord Church.

The rescue tug still had 280 miles to go at eight o'clock this morning. It radioed that it had already steamed about 300 miles.

A radio message from the ship's master, identified only as Captain Stephenson, received by his agents here today, said a sailor had suffered a broken leg when he was swept against a bulkhead by a heavy sea and the ship's fourth engineer officer had been badly burned.

The message said accommodation for sailors in the aft end of the ship was flooded and destroyed. The doors had crashed overboard.

The port side of the navigating bridge had been partly swept away.

Port and starboard lifeboats have been damaged beyond use. In addition the engine room was flooded, and the ship's electrical system disabled.

SECOND SHIP IN TROUBLE

Meanwhile, about 600 miles south-east of Shelburne, Nova Scotia, the fishing vessel Robertson II took the crippled dragger Emma Marie in tow. The Emma Marie developed engine trouble this morning and put up a distress flag.

A Royal Canadian Air Force Neptune aircraft from Greenwood located the dragger shortly after noon. The Robertson, which was only nine miles away, was contacted by radio. Both vessels are from Shelburne. — United Press.

Dulles Leaves For Paris

Washington, Dec. 13. Mr John Foster Dulles, accompanied by a number of his assistants, left here by air today for Paris to attend the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation talks.

Before taking off, he said he hoped the Western allies could reach agreement on the significance of "zigzags" in Soviet policy in recent months.

Mr Dulles is expected to reach Paris early tomorrow afternoon. — Reuter.

Police Fire On Crowd: Three Killed

Freetown, Sierra Leone, Dec. 13.

Three people were killed when police opened fire on a crowd demonstrating against taxes yesterday near Roruki, 50 miles from Freetown, it was learned today.

A Government statement said the crowd, estimated at about 9,000 had refused to disperse when the District Commissioner told them to do so, and the police were "forced to open fire."

It is understood that at least one person in the crowd had fired a "chakabulow"—a local home-made gun—and then police charged the crowd and made a number of arrests.

Crowds were also dispersed yesterday at three other places in the Moyamba district of the British colony. Police opened fire on one occasion but there were no fatal injuries. — Reuter.

Balloting For Labour Chief Ends Today

London, Dec. 13.

Tension mounted beyond the scenes of the British Parliament tonight as members speculated on the outcome of a secret ballot for the leadership of the Labour party.

The close of the postal ballot at noon tomorrow is widely expected to show Mr Hugh Gaitskell, 49-year-old right-wing intellectual most favoured candidate in a bitter three-cornered fight for the mantle of Mr Clement Attlee who resigned last week.

If the contest gives him a clear lead over the combined votes of his opponents, Mr Herbert Morrison, 67, Deputy Leader, and Mr Aneurin Bevan, 58, left-wing chief, Mr Gaitskell will be declared leader tomorrow night.

This would make him undisputed leader of the 840,000 strong British Labour movement with the prospect of being Prime Minister if his party wins a General Election. — Reuter.

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KENNETH MORE • DONALD SINDEN**DOCTOR in the HOUSE**
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— TO-MORROW —



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FINAL SHOWING TO-DAY
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

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MOST BEAUTIFUL AGE!TO-DAY ONLY **Cathay** AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.
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An entertaining package with something for each taste!

Martine Carol in **"THE BED"** (Secret D'alcove)
with English Subtitles — A French PictureHITLER'S ADJUTANT BELIEVED
RETURNING
TO GERMANY

Bonn, Dec. 13.

Otto Guensche, Hitler's personal Adjutant, will return from a Soviet prison camp in one of the next transports of freed German prisoners, it was reported here today.

Professor Ernst Guenther Schenck, former Inspector-General in charge of the Nazi army's food supplies, who arrived from Russia today, said Guensche had been held at Detiarka camp near Sverdlovsk.

He believed Guensche would be sent to Germany in one of the next transport but it was not known whether the former officer would be released in West Germany or in the Communist East.

Guensche is one of the three men who were with Hitler when he died in the Chancellery bunker as the Soviet Army was smashing into the heart of his capital. The other two, Hans Baur and Heinz Lange, have already returned.

Complete Picture

The last man to act as Hitler's Adjutant Guensche was reported to have been gaoled for a year by the Russians in 1954 for enabling resistance among fellow prisoners in the camp near Sverdlovsk. His return may permit completion of the picture of Hitler's last hours to which Lange, Hitler's valet, and Baur, his personal pilot, have already contributed. Both said Hitler was definitely dead.

Professor Schenck, 51, was taken prisoner in the Berlin

Chancellery after the capitulation. He was sentenced to 25 years' hard labour.

Professor Schenck earlier today embarrassed officials and government representatives here by leading the 500 men who returned with him in a solemn oath swearing ceremony outside the Catholic chapel at the hushed reception camp at Friedland.

They crowded the square outside the chapel and intoned: "By our dead and by the dead of the Soviet Union and by the children who will one day pass judgment on us we swear that we have not murdered, we have not raped, we have not pillaged."

Mindful Of Oath

"If we brought misery and suffering to that land (the Soviet Union) we did so under the laws of war and mindful of our soldiers' oath," Professor Theodor Oberlander, West German Refugee Minister, who was present in the camp, immediately called a meeting of senior officials to discuss what has already been christened "the Schenck incident."

The official welcome to the men who with 100 others who arrived during the night are the first big transport of captives to return since repatriations halted seven weeks ago had been kept deliberately quiet so as not to offend Moscow.

Dr Theodor Hecker, Protestant Bishop for returning prisoners, told reporters the oath swearing incident "must be explained by the tension built up over their more than 10 years in Soviet imprisonment and their disappointment when their return journey was abruptly interrupted."

Hunger Strikes

The men said they had been on their way home in October but their train was suddenly stopped in Moscow and they were taken to a barracks, where they stayed until their journey was resumed just as suddenly on December 10.

They said there had been protests and hunger strikes at many camps when the Russians who had promised Chancellor Konrad Adenauer in Moscow that they would free 8,000 Germans suddenly halted the wave of repatriations. Soviet officials had not fulfilled his side of the bargain. It is believed here that the halt was called because of West German delay in approving the Soviet nominee as first Russian ambassador in Bonn.

Repatriations resumed yesterday when 8,000 Germans and four Austrians arrived in West Berlin. The men, who arrived at Friedland today, said further groups were being assembled for repatriation and Soviet railwaymen had told them more trains would soon be on their way to Germany.—Reuter.

FINAL TO-DAY
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

Sheikh Abdullah Guber Sabbah is shown on his recent arrival in Cairo with his 20-year-old bride to begin their honeymoon. The 34-year-old Sheikh, who is Education Minister in Kuwait, married recently in a sumptuous ceremony. She is his fourth wife.—Express Photo.

Russo-Indian Statement
Full Of Platitudes

London, Dec. 13.

British authoritative sources said the Soviet-Indian joint communique, signed today in New Delhi, was "full of platitudes."

The joint communique was signed by Indian Premier Jawaharlal Nehru, Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin and Communist Party First Secretary Nikita Khrushchev, at the end of the Soviet leaders' visit to India.

The communique did not compromise Nehru on any point, British sources said. They added that Nehru was able to sign it without remorse.

The British, on the other hand, objected to the joint communique passage on disarmament. They described this passage as "ludicrous."

Strong Conviction

The passage called for "positive, adequate and early steps" towards international disarmament.

The communique further declared that "in particular, the leaders of both countries wish to emphasize again their strong conviction that there should be unconditional prohibition of the production, use and experimentation of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons, coupled with 'effective international control'."

British authoritative circles were astonished at the joint communique's passage on Vietnam and Laos, but reserved further comment until a more thorough study could be made of the text of the communique.—France-Press.

Thanks A Million

Viana do Castelo, Lisbon, Dec. 13.
A dockworker who received a surprise 100 escudos (about 25 shillings) bonus told his employer it would all go on a lottery ticket "because my wife will not know if I lose."

He won top prize of one million escudos. No complaints were reported when he took the winnings home.—China Mail Special.

Chinese Party
Returning
From Pakistan

Karachi, Dec. 13.

A goodwill delegation of Chinese women were leaving here tonight for Peking after spending a week in Pakistan. They were visiting Pakistan in return for a visit by Pakistani women to China last year.

The leader of the Chinese delegation, told reporters that the coming visit to China of Prime Minister Mohammed Ali was "heartening news."

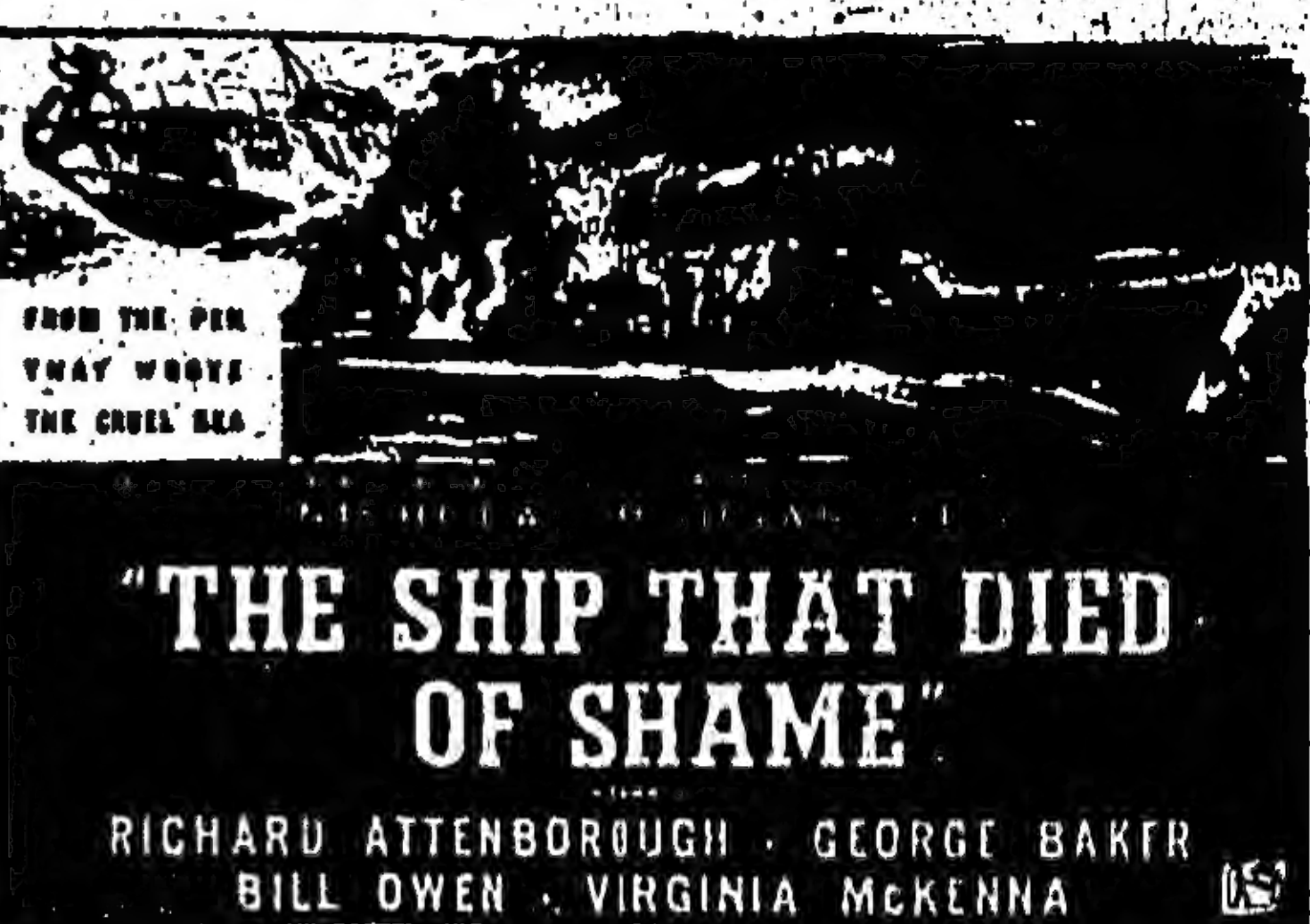
She said that she hoped trade and cultural relations between their two countries would increase.—Reuter.

MAJESTIC

FINAL TO-DAY
AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.TO-MORROW
First showing in Kowloon
Edward G. Robinson
and Joan Bennett in
"THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW"

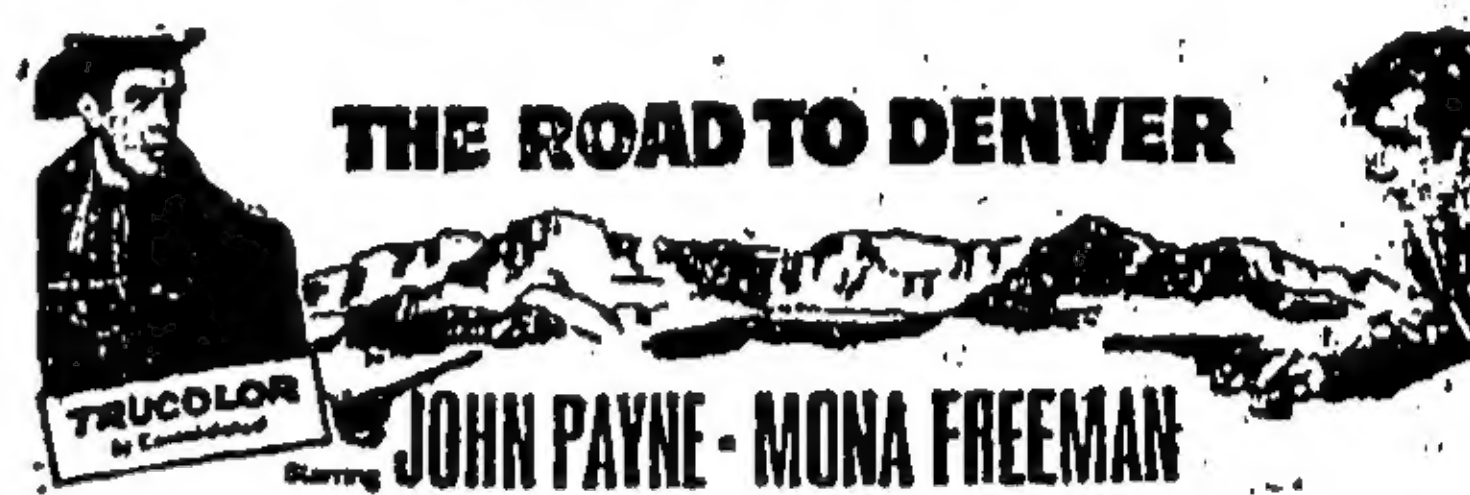
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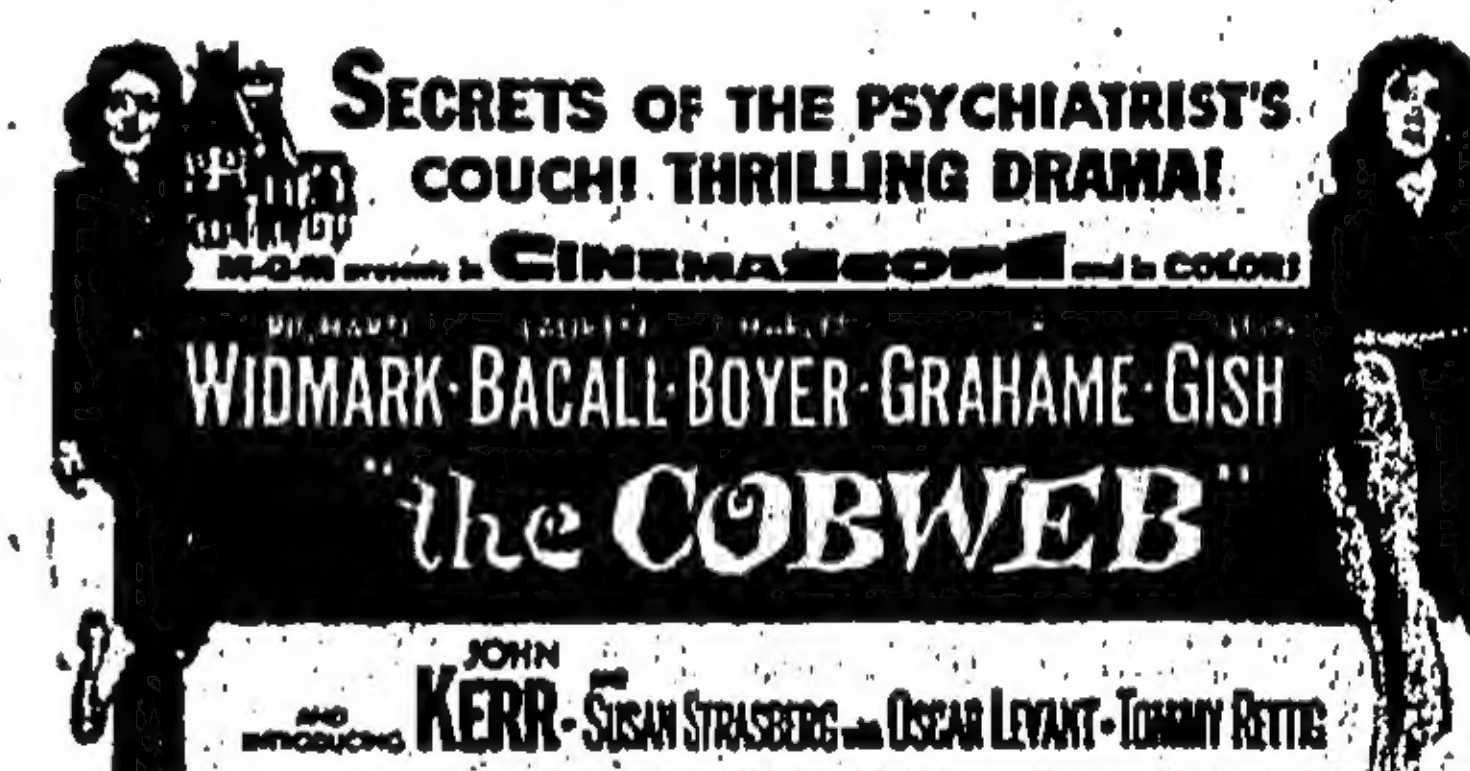
HOOVER: LIBERTY

CAUSEWAY BAY TEL. 78721 KOWLOON TEL. 50333

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AT 2.30, 5.00, 7.20 and 9.40 P.M.

(Please note the change of time)



CAPITOL RITZ

FINAL TO-DAY

AT 2.30 P.M.

5.30

7.30

& 9.30

TO-MORROW
"CHIEF CRAZY HORSE"

— FINAL TO-DAY —

AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

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Nutting Hails UN Disarmament Resolution

BASIS FOR FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS



Anthony Nutting

NATO TALKS OPEN TOMORROW

Paris, Dec. 13. Lord Ismay, Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, presided today over a meeting which completed preparations for Thursday's full dress NATO council session at the organisation's headquarters here.

The meeting, which lasted less than an hour, was between the military committee supreme military authority of NATO and permanent representatives at the headquarters.

The council of foreign, defence and finance ministers begins on Thursday its annual review of NATO plans and policies. The political discussion due early in the three-day meeting is not expected to produce any major revision of policy.

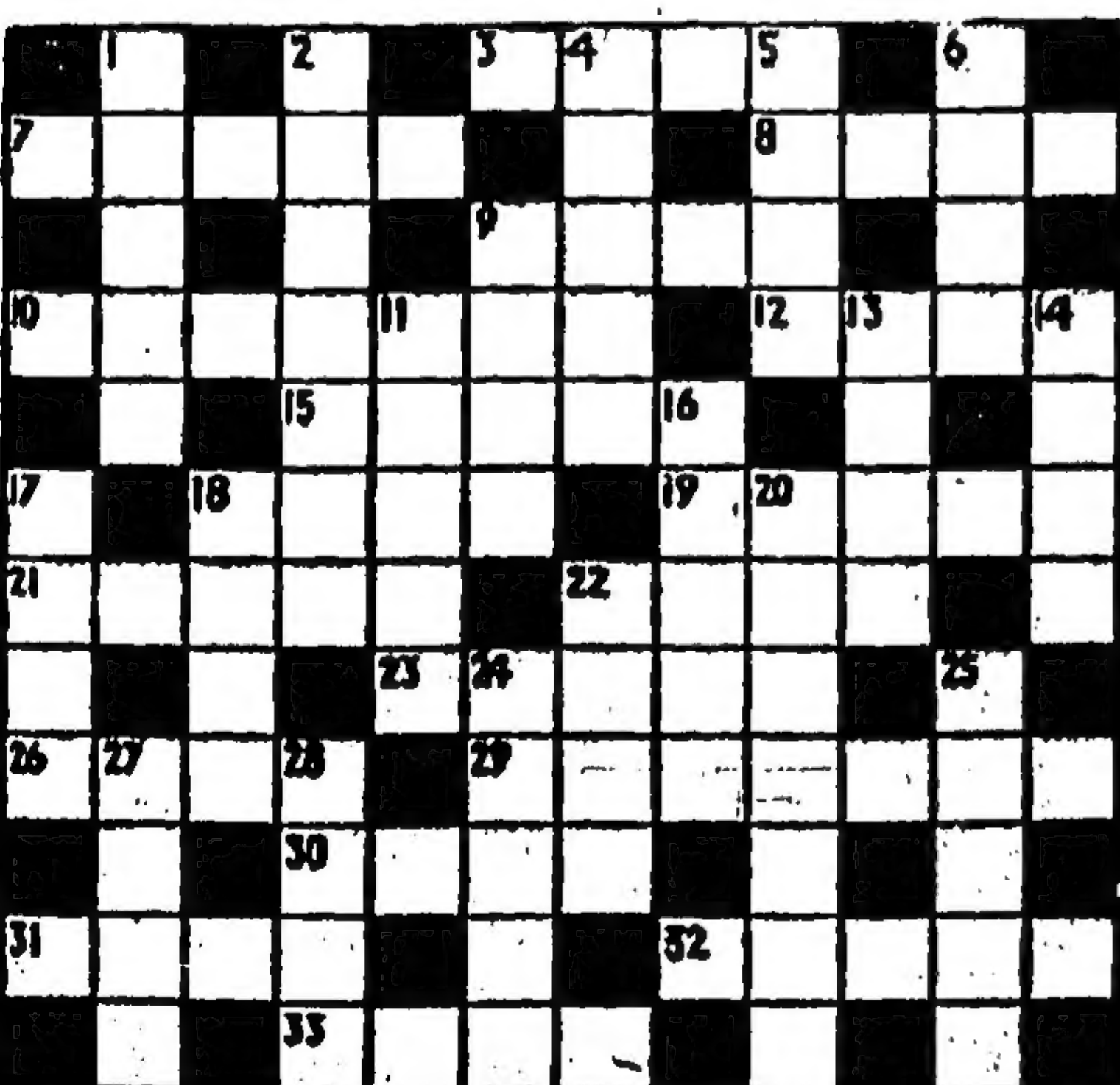
NATO sources said that following the deadlock at the recent Geneva "Big Four" meeting, there was general agreement that there should be no relaxation of the West's defence effort. But most of the member governments say they cannot meet a request by the chiefs of staff for greater joint defence expenditure next year.

One of the main points at this week's meeting will be how the general can make do with the money available although no solution is expected to be reached there. NATO sources said.—Reuters.

Harris Smith, Dec. 13. A local farmer has put a price on the head of every jackal on his land — £20 for a black-backed one and £5 for a silver jackal.

Jackals kill £40,000 worth of sheep a year in the Harris Smith district.—China Mail Special.

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 3 Requests (4).
- 7 Refuge (5).
- 9 Press (4).
- 10 Slave (4).
- 12 Put back (7).
- 13 Sharp (4).
- 15 Kind of antelope (5).
- 18 Commotion (4).
- 19 Window (5).
- 20 Indian coin (5).
- 22 Hastened (4).
- 23 Observe (5).
- 24 Viper (4).
- 25 Diminished (7).
- 30 Stuff (4).
- 31 Bill of fare (4).
- 32 Scene of action (5).
- 33 Encounter (4).

DOWN

- 1 Manservant (5).
- 2 Exhaust (7).
- 4 Gloss (5).
- 5 Sort out (4).
- 6 Obsolete (4).
- 8 Blamish (4).
- 11 Foreign (5).
- 13 Parched (4).
- 14 Incline (5).
- 16 Drugged (5).
- 17 Shellfish (4).
- 18 Rotato (4).
- 20 Carried on again (7).
- 22 Check (4).
- 24 Speak (5).
- 25 Hostile (5).
- 27 Asset (4).
- 28 Drown (4).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD: Across: 1. Groom, 7. Tall, 9. Mango, 10. Slave, 11. Cliff, 12. Despatch, 15. Aztec, 16. Black, 17. Strength, 22. Rate, 24. Month, 25. Amble, 26. Mire, 27. Check. Down: 2. Rings, 3. Aroma, 4. Ensure, 5. Blamish, 6. Cliff, 8. Align, 12. Temon, 13. Debar, 14. Perished, 17. Aster, 18. Reddy, 20. Grasp, 21. Habit, 22. Amble.

New York, Dec. 13. The British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr Anthony Nutting, today urged the Western powers to have "patience and firmness" in facing the disarmament question, and he hailed the overwhelming vote for the Western-sponsored disarmament resolution in the United Nations yesterday as "a start in the right direction."

The 35-year-old diplomat talked to newsmen shortly before he departed for London on a British Overseas Airways plane. He had served as head of his country's delegation to the UN General Assembly and as British representative to the United Nations Disarmament Commission.

Asked if he were optimistic about the accomplishments of the Disarmament Subcommittee Commission and the General Assembly's Political Committee since the convening of the Assembly in September on matters of disarmament, Mr Nutting replied:

"I am always an optimist, although sometimes my optimism gets a little faded. I can't say that I'm optimistic for the immediate future, but with patience and firmness—and we shall need a good deal of both—I hope we shall be able to work something out."

As to further discussions of the disarmament question, Mr Nutting said the five-nation sub-committee may meet in London in late February or early March, "unless there is a spring session of the UN General Assembly, which has been discussed as a possibility."

London Meeting

He added: "The general preference, I should think, would be for a London meeting."

Mr Nutting said yesterday's vote on the disarmament resolution in the U.N. demonstrated that an overwhelming majority are in favour of trying out confidence-building measures and making a start with such actual disarmament as is feasible today.

He said that both the Eisenhower proposal for exchange of military blueprints and aerial reconnaissance privileges and the Eden plan were "necessary preliminaries to actual disarmament."

He described the Eisenhower proposal as "the most imaginative confidence-building measure produced for a long time and one on the biggest scale."

He said the Eden plan plan "is, in a sense, an easier plan because it is in a more limited area and does not involve nearly so much organisation and administration."

Get Moving

Mr Nutting added that the overwhelming vote for the Western-sponsored disarmament resolution yesterday was due to the fact that the Western powers were "prepared to anticipate pressure for both the pilot plan and actual disarmament" and at the same time continue the search for "ultimate disarmament."

He said the desire of the UN General Assembly Political Committee to "get moving and make a start" toward disarmament was another reason for the great support for the resolution.

Mr Nutting plans to resume his regular duties as the second man in the British Foreign Office immediately upon his arrival in London. There is no specific problem which awaits his return, he added.—United Press.

Radioactive Fallout Victims Lose Hair

Chicago, Dec. 13. Radiation from a nuclear device tested last year in the Pacific caused temporary skin eruptions and loss of hair in 90 per cent of affected cases, according to disclosures made today by a US Navy doctor.

Commander Eugene P. Cronkite said the fallout material consisted of pulverised and incinerated coral coated with radioactive isotope products. The material got into the atmosphere by the explosion and spread out by winds over neighbouring inhabited atolls.

Some 64 Marshall Island natives were affected. In a prepared talk, the doctor told his audience attending the annual meeting here of the Radiological Society of North America that while most injuries were slight, some of the atomic burns were deep and became infected.

The exposed persons, however, regained good health within a year, he added.—China Mail Special.



Riding a white horse across the yard of his palace at Rabat is Sidi Mohamed ben Youssef, newly-reinstated Sultan of French Morocco. He is on his way to a mosque to pray, and he wears the traditional monque costume.—Express Photo.

French Leaders Open Campaign

Paris, Dec. 13.

M. Pierre Mendes-France and M. Antoine Pinay, both ex-premiers and the leaders respectively of the left and right wings in French politics, were tonight officially launching the campaign for France's January 2 general election.

M. Pinay, who is Foreign Minister in the present caretaker government, was addressing himself to the 500,000 young people who have come of age since the 1951 election and are voting for the first time.

M. Mendes-France was to speak particularly to women voters.

Though today was the formal opening of the election campaign, it has in fact been in full swing ever since November 30, when Premier Edgar Faure decided to dissolve the Assembly and hold elections.

Records Broken

The official campaign's opening marks the closing of the lists of candidates which had to be in by midnight last night.

In this respect as in all others, the election is breaking all records.

In 1951 there were 3,952 candidates for the 544 seats contested in Continental France.

On January 2, a total of 5,281 candidates will be contesting the same number of seats, almost 10 candidates for every seat.

A cautious tone prevailed on the Paris Stock Exchange and the ground lost yesterday when the pattern of the inter-party electoral alliances was made known was not regained. Speculators thought the alliances concluded made a Con-

servative victory less certain than it had appeared a week ago and there was some selling.

The star of the Conservative election campaign is to be M. Antoine Pinay, who is expected to stress financial stability at home and Atlantic solidarity abroad.

M. Pinay governed as Premier from March to December of 1952 under the slogan "save the franc" and his period of office coincided with a slackening off of inflation and a steady rise in French currency which has won him a certain reputation for sound financial policies.—Reuters.

Forced Landing

Cherbourg, Dec. 13. Two Pakistan military planes made a forced landing in the town of Queurqueville today after one of them had developed mechanical trouble.

The planes were en route from England to the town of Istres in France with a total of nine officers and 11 non-commissioned officers aboard.—France-Press.

Israeli Border Incident

IRAQ WILL BACK SYRIA

Bagdad, Dec. 13. Iraq will come to the aid of Syria if she is asked, Premier Noury Said, told King Faisal II and members of the Senate in an important meeting held in the Iraqi Royal Palace this evening, well informed sources stated here today.

Up to the present, the Iraqi Government has received no information officially regarding the incident on Sunday night on the Syrian-Israeli border, when Syrian soldiers and officers were killed.

This morning the Iraqi Foreign Minister, Burhaneddin Bayhan, had a meeting with the three ambassadors of the Baghdad Pact powers, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey. No information was given as to the subject of the talk, but an Iranian spokesman said the Baghdad pact was discussed.

UN Called On

Syria today called upon the United Nations Security Council to discuss Sunday night's attack.

The Syrian request was made at the United Nations today in a letter to the Security Council Chairman, Sir Leslie Knox Monroe, by the Syrian delegate, Mr Rafik Asha.

Mr Asha asked that the Security Council discuss a series of Israeli attacks on the East of Lake Tiberius (the Sea of Galilee) which constitute a deliberate act of aggression and provocation and a flagrant violation of the Syrian-Israeli armistice agreement.

Mr Asha said in his letter that Israeli commandos landed on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, preceding two companies of infantry, who crossed the Syrian frontier, supported by armoured vehicles and launches, aircraft and heavy artillery.

After a four-hour battle, the Israeli forces occupied four Syrian observation posts and sought to advance further east, but were forced to withdraw without reaching their objectives, the letter said.

The Syrian delegate said that five Syrian officers, 32 soldiers and 12 civilians, including three women, were killed in the battle. Eight soldiers were wounded. Thirty were captured and numerous Syrian houses were destroyed, he said.

Not Justified

A few minutes after Mr Asha's letter had been sent to Sir Leslie Knox Monroe, the head of the Syrian delegation, Ahmed Shukairy, told journalists that "nothing justified such an appalling attack", not even "the protection of fishing rights on the Lake of Tiberius", as claimed by the Israeli Government.

Mr Shukairy said that "this aggression is absolutely irreconcilable with the overtures and peace offers coming from Mr Ben Gurion, the head of the Israeli Government."—France-Press.

Moroccans Want New Agreement With France

Rabat, Dec. 13.

Si Bekkal, newly appointed Moroccan Premier, said on the Moroccan radio tonight that his government had to negotiate a "new agreement" with France.

This agreement, said Si Bekkal, would have to abrogate the treaty of Fez of 1912, whereby France took Morocco under her protection and define the bases of relations between the two countries. "A country's sovereignty is either complete, or it does not exist," said Si Bekkal.

Morocco was a Western country by reason of its geographical position and its economic needs, but Morocco also belonged to the great community of the Muslim world, Si Bekkal continued.

Until the French-Moroccan talks have completed their task, he said the government would be in charge of running the country and democratising its institutions.

Remain Vigilant

No longer would the Moroccan judiciary be sheltered by arbitrary and corrupt decisions, Si Bekkal stated.

Public liberties would be restored, and in particular, trade union freedom for agricultural workers would be instituted.

"The transitory period through which we are now passing means we must remain vigilant, united around our sovereign."

Si Bekkal concluded: "In the name of my government, I appeal to your patriotism, to your sense of the general good, so that we may all be, wherever we work, builders of order, peace and discipline. It is important for each one of us to fulfil our obligations and act justly. May God help our sovereign."—France-Press.

Marshall Wants More Democracy

London, Dec. 13.

Mr David Marshall, Chief Minister of Singapore, was the guest of honour tonight at a dinner of the Royal Institute of Foreign Affairs at Chatham House, London.

After the dinner, he was interviewed for the home programme of the BBC. He said he was very anxious that the British people should be better informed about the position of Singapore. He stressed that he wanted in Singapore more democracy and more equality of status.

For instance, he had on his side only 11 out of the 20 elected members of the Assembly. That, he said, was not a democratic way of governing. "We will work until we can get it, or until we can't get it," he said.—France-Press.



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Makes all the difference!

IN ALL SHOPS & STORES

Refined since 1884

NATHANIEL GUBBINS

MANY theories have been offered to explain the behaviour of those ex-jolly uncles Bulgarian and Krushchev on their tour of India.

Before they left they were at their jolliest. Ex-dogs, cannibals and hyenas of the Western world were lavishly entertained with the usual vodka, caviare and corny jokes. Beaming smiles and warm handshakes were given and returned.

British and Russian naval squadrons exchanged visits. Although a puzzled British sailor, making a friendly pass at a Russian girl, was coldly informed that "The Times is a very frivolous newspaper," there were no hard feelings.

Probably the sailor had never read The Times and expected foreigners to be a bit barmy anyway.

★ ★ ★

Even when the Russian naval authorities tried to wreck the British squadron by ordering it backwards down a crowded river in the middle of the night no complaints were expressed publicly though we shall never know what was said privately on the voyage home.

Just about this time Mr Macmillan said, "There ain't going to be any war," and everybody but a few doubters like myself relaxed.

Now we are all dogs, hyenas, and cannibals again. The last war was started by us, probably at the instigation of that arch-cannibal and hyena, Neville Chamberlain.

Trying to explain all this nonsense, experts on foreign affairs have made many suggestions, the most popular being that a new purge is about to begin among the loving comrades in the Kremlin.

My own explanation is much simpler and probably the right one. It is based on a report from Poonia, the Indian Sandhurst.

The report said: "We are glad to be given an opportunity of visiting such a wonderful military institution."

said Mr. Krushchev, nervously fingering a glass of orange juice in readiness to honour the toast. No vodka. Only orange juice. No cocktail parties thrown in a largely teetotal country. Only garlands and flower petals.

As I have always believed the comrades are only amiable when they are full of vodka, it is quite clear to me that they were hopping mad because they were thirsty.

A remark by an Indian officer present didn't help much. He said, "Only good show air."

Krushchev swallowed the orange juice. It was after this cynical, typically British observation that Mr. K. said so many nasty things about us.

P.S. Since writing the above I have seen a picture of the angry uncles unhappily drinking coconut milk.

Watch out for more trouble, dogs, hyenas, and cannibals.

★ ★ ★

The parting guest

At a rough estimate I suppose about 100,000 words have been written about Christmas parties.

They all tell you how to give a party, what to give the guests to eat and drink, and how to keep them happy with infantile games.

So far not a single word has been written on how to get rid of them.

As a reluctant party giver I have tried every method except the old-fashioned one of pressing a button and dropping the lot into an underground lake full of crocodiles. My guests have escaped this fate only because I have no underground lake and no crocodiles.

I have filled their sandwiches with mustard and red pepper hoping they would choke to death. They survived and asked for more.

★ ★ ★

Sometimes, desperate with boredom, I have even thought of putting poison in their drinks. But the happy, carefree days of the Bourgeois are over, what with police inquiries and signing poison registers at the chemist's.

When whisky was cheap I have given them enormous

drinks hoping they would fall to the floor unconscious and be carried away in an ambulance. But my guests were tough. They just went on drinking and talking.

I have allowed them to chatter away about themselves for hours on end, praying they would die of exhaustion, but they only found fresh energy in this encouragement.

I have tried the experiment of boring them with unfunny stories and tales of my dull past, but they have only come back at me with unfunniest stories and tales of duller pasts.

As I have tried everything but insulting them there seem to be only two ways of avoiding this Christmas misery.

I must either refuse all invitations to parties so that I won't feel obliged to return them or have a tank built under the house and buy some crocodiles.

★ ★ ★

Why elephants cry

ANOTHER bit of animal news is that elephants have been known to cry.

This conceals no surprise to me, because elephants must feel rather out of place in a world full of smaller creatures.

It is probable that they are also conscious of their trunks. To have a trunk instead of a nose would make anybody pretty miserable, and an elephant catching sight of its reflected profile in a lake might be excused for having a good cry now and then.

A third reason for their unhappiness may be their well-known inability to forget.

Those of us who have sinned (and who has not?) are able to lay forgetfulness in gaiety and forced cheerfulness.

The elephant has none of these advantages. He cannot go into a bar and buy himself a drink without causing fear and consternation among hardened tipplers.

He must live alone with his bitter memories, and through his tears ask pardon of the wife and child he has deserted.

Being an elephant, she is not likely to forget either.

(WORLD COPYRIGHT.)

YESTERDAY...



"Say! Time British Imperialism got to hell out of here!"

TODAY...



"Oh, oh, for the days of the dear old British Empire!"

London Express Service

A date with one of Hollywood's most glamorous Brando among the mummies

London I AM still recovering from my date with Arlene Dahl. You are assuming from this statement that we painted the town red? You are thinking this column is meeting too many beautiful women, becoming unduly hedonistic?

Well, you can stop jumping to conclusions and kindly wipe that leer off your face.

I had arranged to pick up the dazzling Miss Dahl at her hotel. The plan was that I would show her the town.

I asked her if there was anywhere she particularly wanted to go, giving the impression that I was an authority on all the places a glamorous film star might conceivably want to visit.

"Yes," she said sweetly, "the British Museum."

I treated it as a joke. She did not.

I tried to fob her off with Les Ambassadeurs, the Caprice, the Prospect of Whiffy. But Miss Dahl was adamant. She could think of nothing more heavenly

one of the most photogenic faces in the business; she was also a newspaper columnist, a designer of ladies' lingerie, an amateur philosopher, and a student of psychology and religions. I said she looked remarkably well on it.

We then took a look at the reliefs showing the lion hunts of Ashur-bani-pal. Miss Dahl said that Ashur-bani-pal reminded her of her first husband, Lex Barker, former Tarzan of the screen.

"I should never have married him," she confided. "He wasn't the intellectual type. I take an interest in metaphysics. He wasn't a bit interested in metaphysics. I doubt if he knew what the word meant."

"Yes, people made jokes about me being Tarzan's mate, and asked if we ate our dinner in the tree-tops. But that wasn't the reason I got divorced from him."

Higher scale

Her present husband, Fernando Lamas, is higher up in the intellectual scale. He is a poet as well as an actor, and understands what metaphysics means. "We keep pads of paper handy," she said, "so that when any ideas about philosophy or religion come to us, we can just jot them down."

I inquired whether any ideas that she wanted to jot down urgently had come to her at the British Museum. She said they would keep.

"Intelligence is so important in a man," said Miss Dahl. "A handsome face helps, but what I go for are qualities of the mind."

Miss Dahl admired the head of Antonia, mother of the Emperor Claudius, "noted for beauty and goodness," but decided she could do with a face-lift after all these years.

Miss Dahl knows all about such things. She writes syndicated beauty columns (three times a week) in which she passes on to her readers the beauty secrets of the stars.

I wondered if it wasn't sometimes hazardous for one beauty to interview another beauty on the subject of how to be beautiful. That sort of situation might produce a great deal of catinness, I thought.

No secrets

"Only," said Miss Dahl, "if someone tells me: 'But, my dear, I have no beauty secrets. I don't do anything to be beautiful except be myself.'"

Girls who say this, Miss Dahl has found, have usually had their faces lifted a couple of times, their noses remoulded, body massage twice a day, false eyelashes and busts, and a dermatologist working on their skin.

Although I do not write a beauty column, I asked Miss Dahl to tell me her own beauty secrets. Here they are: Getting eight and a half hours' sleep every night. Being able to relax. Not smoking or drinking to excess. Rinsing her hair in champagne.

"But, my dear, are packs are not a good idea," she reports. "I asked Miss Dahl to tell me what, in her opinion, were the most beautiful girls in films?"

She said: "Elizabeth Taylor, Ava Gardner, Kim Novak, Gina Lollobrigida, Vivien Leigh in her heyday."

"What about Marilyn Monroe?" I asked.

"She has a beautiful skin," said Miss Dahl.

"And Rhonda Fleming?" I inquired.

"Rhonda?" reflected Miss Dahl. "I suppose some people would consider her lovely."

I noted that all Miss Dahl's top beauties were dark; about girls with similar colouring to her own she was noticeably less ecstatic.



"Goodness, it looks just like Marlon!"

Are you a banana, a drag, an odd ball?

HEY, DADDY-O!

By DUNCAN LAMONT

I AM standing in a street-corner when suddenly this character in a Yankee uniform comes up and gives me the big hullo.

"Daddy-o," cries he. "Whither the passion pit to find me the kittens and chicks?"

Now he is a big hunk of U.S. sailor — weighing all of 200lbs. wearing only his hat — and furthermore he has a healthy look, so I am not sharp-tongued.

"Sailor," I say. "I do not understand."

"Daddy-o!" cries he again. "Are you a banana, a drag, an odd ball? Don't you dig this hop-ink? Then let me explain."

"Gah-jax and hop-ink is the language of all us clean-limbed American boys. It is part of the American Way of Life."

"In gah-jax it is important to be hep. If you are hep you are a cat, in the know, and turning with the times. If you are not hep, you are a stupid, unlikable person, namely a square, a banana, a drag, or an odd ball. Or worst of all you are a cube, being a real smearnik, a square in 3-D. Are you with me so far?"

"Sailor," I say. "I am with you — just."

"Now daddy-o is just a friendly greeting to any male. Girls, on the other hand, are called chicks, dikes, and kittens. When you kiss them you lump lips or you prune."

"An ugly girl is a crocodile and a deadhead. And the most important hep word of all is cool."

"A nice guy is a cool cat, anything terrific is cooler than cool, and anything that's the mostest is so cool that you describe it as frigid."

"Man," says I excitedly. "I'm really digging this jive rattle. Try me out."

"Right," says the flat-top. "What is a cool Yale and a snapper happy?"

"Merry Christmas and a happy New Year."

"Oh, neat! What happens when you flee to the crib?"

"Go home early."

"Man, this is groovy, real gunc! What happens when you slip your lid over a flame sight?"

"You fall in love with a shapely chick."

"Well, see, listen to the beat! Daddy-o, you are a cool cat, a real gunc! Now leave us to go back to the beginning. Whither the passion pit?"

"The dance-hall? My I, is down the road a piece. Leave us to go along together, friend, and find ourselves two cool kittens."

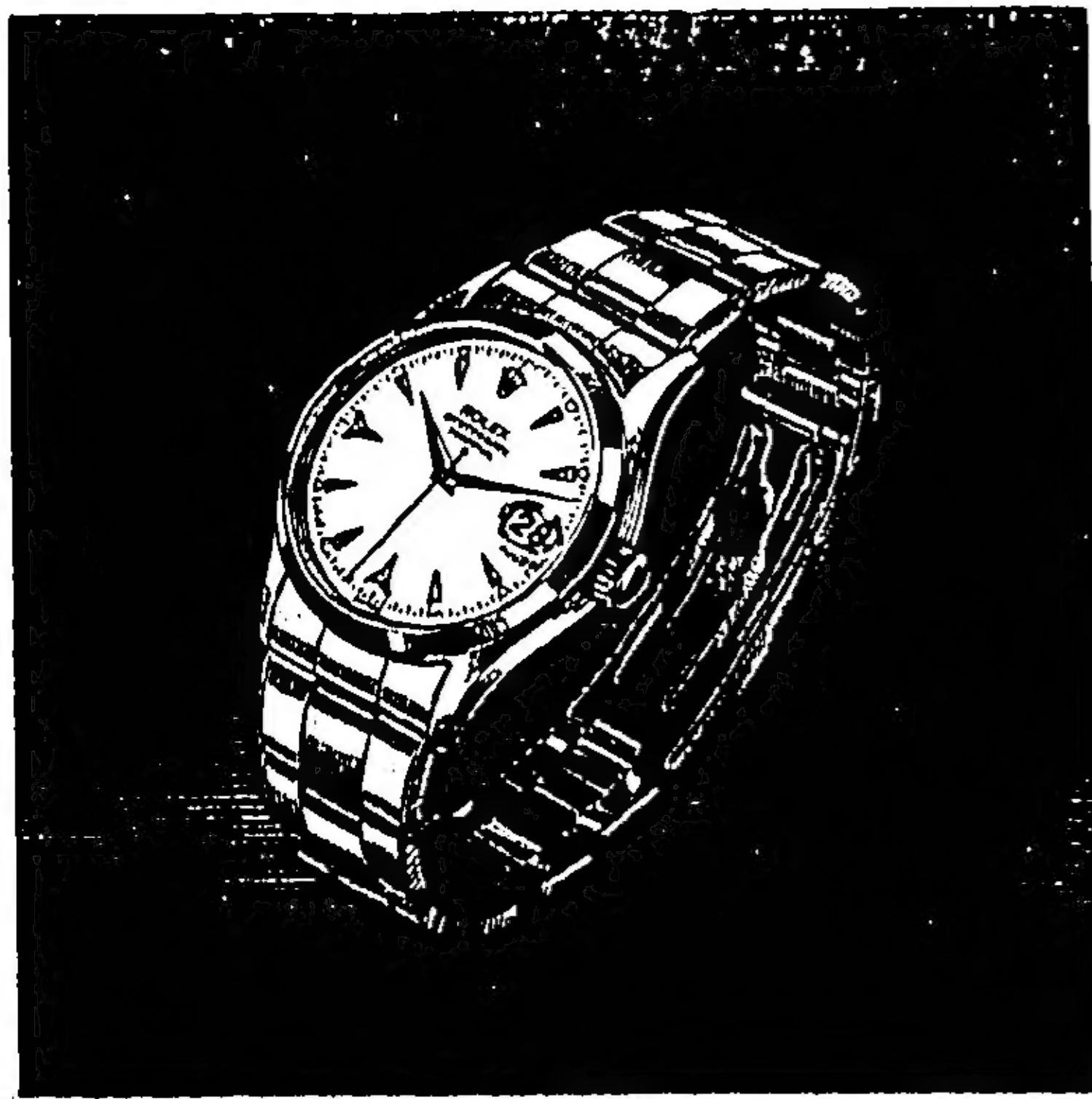
★ ★ ★

Illustrated above is the "Rolex Oysterdate Perpetual".

Incorporated in this superb selfwinding watch are many famous Rolex features; the intricate movement is perfectly guarded from dust, damp, powder and perspiration by the unique Oyster Case, and Twinlock Safety Crown. The date is clearly shown in a neat window in the dial. The silent Rolex selfwinding mechanism is the finest of its kind. It has been tested and proven in every continent since 1932.

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fulfils an urgent need for a selfwinding calendar watch of elegance and superb precision at a moderate cost.

DOWER GAINS VICTORY



Dal Dower makes a comeback — he outpointed Jake Tuli, of South Africa, in the 15-round contest at Harringay on December 7 to retain his British Empire flyweight title. Dower (rt) rocks Tuli with a right-hander. — Central Press Photo.

There's Room For Artistic Approach In Ice Hockey

Says DENNIS HART

Red Ring, Russian national ice hockey team who flew home last week after a three-match visit to England, left behind them two defeated teams and a lasting impression.

The team were Harringay Racers, beaten twice, and Wembley Lions.

The impression was that, even in a tough game like ice hockey, there is room for the artistic approach—and the Russians had it.

For just a week, then, the Russians have become a matter of shooting as hard and as often as possible and keeping the other team out—not by skill but by body-checking.

"You don't have to be a good skater to be able to shoot. It's just a question of hitting the puck hard. The skill comes in building up movements. And that's what our players haven't been bothering to do."

SOMETHING BETTER

"Now I hope the fans, having seen that the game can be skillful as well as tough will demand something better from their own teams."

The Russians relied on the short pass instead of the hopeful long distance hit. In defence, they preferred to counter-attack by anticipation and positional play than by powerful body-checking.

Expanded Hal Glesne, player-coach to Harringay Racers, beat 11-1 in the Russians' opening match. "The Russians are a perpetual motion. They were seconds faster than our boys."

Although the Russians put skill before force they were still grand fighters.

In the return match with the Harringay Racers, who had been strengthened by the inclusion of some Wembley players, the Russians were 4-0 down in twenty-one minutes. Back came the Russians and, with Ivan Tregubov hitting three successive goals, they raced to a thrilling 5-4 victory.

SPECIAL MENTION

In a side that played as a team, it is difficult to pick out individuals. "Every player was a stick handler," said Ahearne. But special mention must be

Basilio Gets "Fighter Of The Year" Award

New York, Dec. 13. Carmen Basilio 28-year-old World Welterweight Champion was today named "fighter of the year" by the American Boxing Writers Association. He has been unbeaten in his last 15 contests.—Reuter.

Sports Diary

TODAY
Badminton Inter-School matches at King's College, commencing at 6 p.m.
Boxer Inter-School Committee meeting, Sports Road, 5.45 p.m.

FRIDAY
Royal HK Golf Club Annual Meeting, HK Club at 5.30 p.m.
Table Tennis Non-Chinese Table Tennis championship final at Mission to Seamen.
Badminton Inter-School matches at Grantham Training College.

CYCLING NOTES

AMBITION OF EVERY RACING CYCLIST IS TO BEAT THE 'HOUR' FOR 25 MILES RACE

Says "NTACA"

To beat the "Hour" for a 25 miles Time Trial is the secret ambition of every racing cyclist who has not already done so. It is an object pursued with the determination shown by Galahad in his search for the Grail. In the case of Ron Beck it was not a secret, but a long-proclaimed target.

And on Sunday last, in winning the REME CC's Open 25 Time Trial, he achieved that ambition, with one of the best rides ever seen in the Colony, the second-fastest ever at the distance. He failed by only 15 seconds to equal the time of that master of the short-distance race, REME's Brian Ryalnce, holder of the Colony record at 59-24.

Ron was plainly disappointed at his narrow failure, especially as it was his last opportunity to add to his list this very coveted record, but he was compensated to a degree by the fact that he improved by nearly a minute his already large lead in the "SCMP" Bar Cup competition.

This first promotion by the long-established REME Club was a great success. Of the 20 riders who took advantage of the fine day, all but two registered an improvement on their previous best for the season, and the race produced some really excellent times.

Ellingham showed his true capabilities at the shorter distances by second place in 1-3-14, being followed by his teammates, Bould (1-3-45) and Marshall (1-4-02). To take first team award, and three more points towards the team Championship.

FIFTH POSITION

Brian Foster, Essex CC, came back to racing with a fine 1-3-18 for fifth position, and another "Prodigal Son", Templeman of the Essex CC, ran him close with 1-6-01. Leading rider from the SCAA was Ng Shui-yue, whose 1-6-41 was 17 seconds better than the time put up by the second of the Essex Team, Dable.

An outstanding feature of this event was the fact that no less than five complete teams finished, the highest number for some time. The Kai Tak Exiles, one of the oldest of the Colony teams, took second place, while others to collect points were the Essex, Pegasus and SCAA.

In the Team Championship, REME CC now have a lead of four points over SCAA, 30 to 26, their nearest rivals being the Pegasus with 12.

In the "SCMP" BAR contest, Beck has increased his lead to just over 15 minutes from the second man, Bouch, (who was not riding on Sunday), with the REME trio of Ellingham, Bould and Marshall filling the next three berths. The remaining three places are taken by the SCAA boys, Ng Shui-yue, Ng Ku-mai and Chow Mun-cheung. Only these eight riders have times for all three distances.

In the Team section, REME easily hold top place, with an aggregate of 24-46-53 to the 26-15-11 of the Chinese boys. With only one event each at 50 and 100 miles left to count towards the contest, it is not expected that there will be any major changes in the leading placings, although a good many more riders should come into the three-figure table.

The biggest event of the cycling year, the Three-Day Stage Race, starts on Friday next at midday. Acting on advice from the local Police, the organisers have amended the route for the first day's racing, and the Twisk-Caslo Peak road will not now be used. Instead, the route will include four climbs of the longer and steeper side of the notorious Route 1 hill, with four passages of the Golf Course road to keep the riders from slackening. This 13.8 miles circuit is one of the toughest in the Colony, and should prove an excellent test of stamina and speed, a factor favouring Ron Beck, who is once again the favourite to win the individual prize.

MINOR PLACINGS

Minor placings are much more difficult to predict, as so many

riders are on a par, and one must make some allowance for luck. Ellingham, Bould and Marshall, of the REME CC, must all be considered as likely place winners, while Foster, Bouch and Smith cannot be discounted in a race so long and hard. Among the others, we can look for some good riding by Dable, Templeman and Spry, with a possible surprise by Maxwell.

The Team victory is a very open one, with three teams all having an equal chance of picking off a win. REME CC will start favourites, if only because they have some good reserve riders in Spry, Ellingham and Luna, but the Russians have three very strong men in Bouch, Cowland and Holt, with Cook to back them up. The third major team is the newly-arrived Exiles CC, whose Foster, Dable and Maxwell could well steal some of the thunder from the "Big names". The only other complete team to take is that of the Essex CC, but it is considered that their two top riders, Templeman and Smith, will be carrying too long a tail to give them much of a chance.

It is most unfortunate that the SCAA boys will not be riding, as their stamina and "steakability" would make the race a very tricky business indeed. Much will depend on teamwork in this event, which promises to be the most exciting ever to be held in the Colony.

"South China Morning Post" Best All Rounder Time Trial Cup Positions To Date

Name	Club	25 miles	50 miles	100 miles
1. Beck	Pegasus CC	1-02-39	2-09-40	4-25-40
2. Bouch	7 Husars	1-02-54	2-10-20	4-36-40
3. Ellingham	REME CC	1-03-14	2-14-57	4-49-45
4. Bould	REME CC	1-03-35	2-16-57	4-54-38
5. Marshall	REME CC	1-04-02	2-22-00	4-54-45
6. Ng Shui-yue	SCAA	1-06-41	2-22-01	5-00-41
7. Ng Ku-mai	SCAA	1-08-30	2-34-15	4-57-51
8. Chow Mun-cheung	SCAA	1-12-13	2-36-33	5-16-26

THIS APPRENTICE HAS A STYLE LIKE SIR GORDON

By JAMES PARK

Most of the leading apprentices are serving their time with trainers who had experience in the saddle. Geoffrey Lewis was taught the business by Ron Smyth, who was one of the leading cross-country riders of his day.

Tony Rawlinson is with Dick Perryman, who rode for Lord Derby. Paul Tulk, Wally Swinburn and Charles Gaston have been taught the rudiments of riding horses by Miss Armstrong and race tactics by her father, Sam.

The younger generation may not remember that Sam was a jockey under National Hunt Rules.

Dennis Ryan is serving his time with Willie Stephenson, who was apprenticed to the late Major Vandy Bonty. Brian Swift was a pupil of Jack Reardon, whom I saw win a substitute Grand National on Vermont in 1916.

Ron Smyth has always had a high opinion of Lewis. The opinion has been justified to the extent that the Epsom trainer is content to have the apprentice riding the horses whenever owners are agreeable.

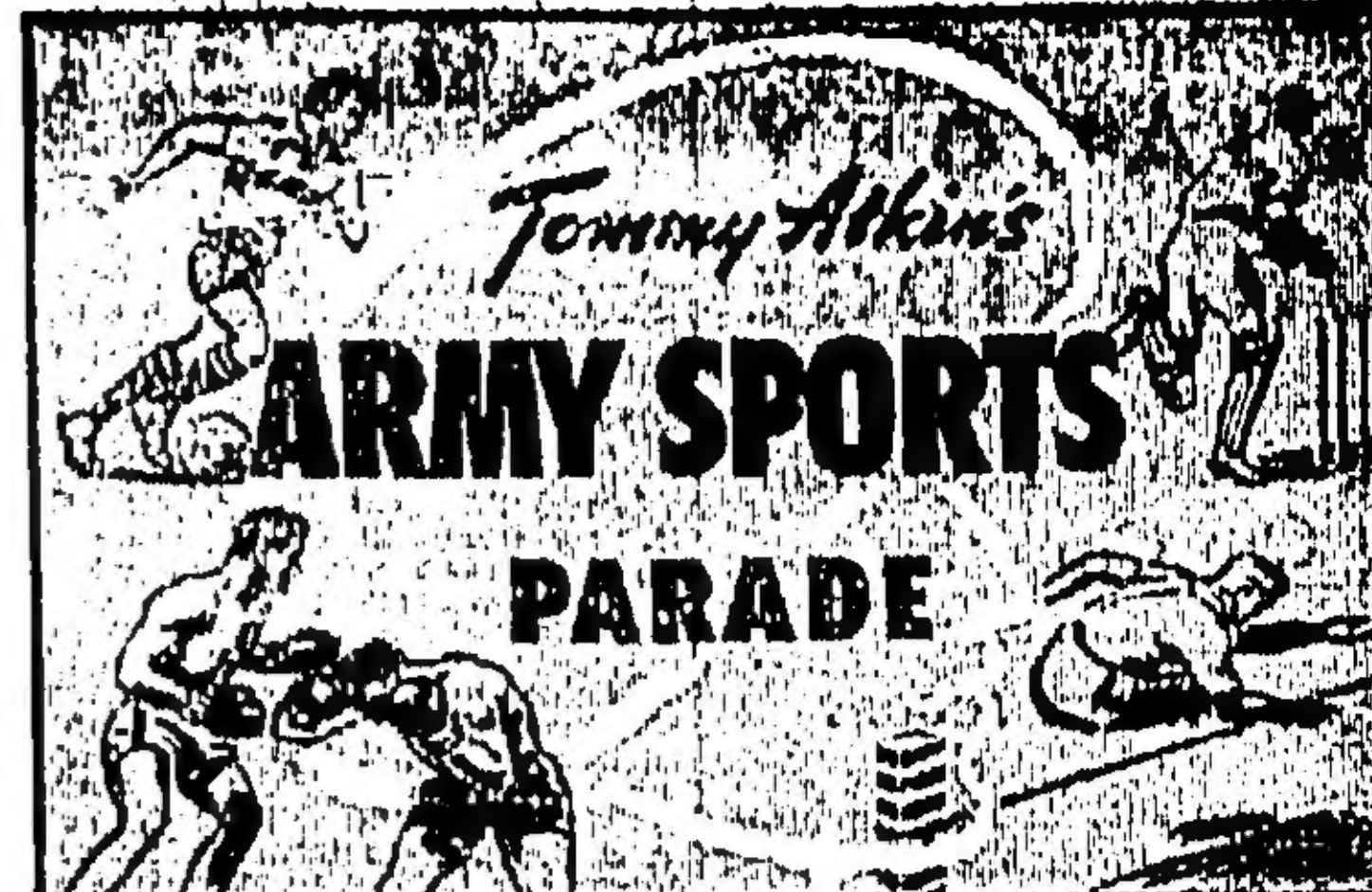
HOLDS HIS OWN

Lewis reminds me of Sir Gordon Richards in many ways. He has much the same sort of walk, and the determination and strength to get the last ounce out of a horse. Lewis has lost the allowance, but I have seen him hold his own with the best in a strenuous finish.

Rawlinson has ridden most of his winners in the North, where he enjoys a good reputation. Like Lewis, Rawlinson is as good a boxer as he is a jockey. They are of the tough never-say-die type who fear nothing, and that is a great asset.

The one who stops to think whether there is room for him to go through usually finds the opening has closed before he can get there. I have no doubt Rawlinson will get more opportunities next year.

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Sheer weight of numbers makes it almost impossible this week to start the column with the Spot of Honour that normally heads the Sports Parade. There are so many worthy claimants, men like cross-country runners Joyce and Alderton, cricketers Nash and Greenhaugh, boxers Grant and Carter, and soccer stars White and Charlesworth, that the Top Spot would fill all the space that is available to me.

So let us be a little unorthodox for a change and say 'To as fine a week's sport as we have had in a long time, even if (and cricketers can look the other way here) victory evaded some of our star sportsmen.'

I think pride of place in the week's events must go to the five organisations that made it possible to stage the Colony and Land Forces Team and Individual Cross-Country Championships simultaneously at San Wal on Saturday afternoon.

Such a complicated undertaking required a lot of work from many people and the success that attended their efforts on this occasion was adequate indication of their willingness and their thoroughness. It was most satisfying to see Service and Civilian officials working hand in hand to ensure that every aspect of the organisation was smoothly and so give the competitors the maximum opportunity to produce their best form.

RECENT ARRIVAL

While everyone present at the event readily acclaimed another outstanding success by Bob Pape of the Royal Navy—what a grand sportsman he is!—there was particular interest in the efforts of Pte Joyce of the North Staffs, the new Land Forces Champion. This youngster is a recent arrival in the Colony and his performance gave promise of still better things to come when he has settled down to local conditions.

Special congratulations are due to 2/2 Gordonia Rifles of their splendid success in the Colony and Land Forces Major Units Team Championships.

The hard gruelling course suited them admirably and their close packing was too much for the defending Champions, 1 Essex, who were forced to surrender their title.

In the Minor Units team event 6 (OD did very well) indeed to withstand the strong challenge of 173 Locating Battery, Royal Artillery and collect the main trophy.

Thinking back over the proceedings at San Wal on Saturday I again find myself wondering if in all realms of sport there is any spectacle quite so impressive as the start of a big cross-country run. This time 280 colour splashed runners went into action when the red starting flag was dropped and it was indeed a sight to gladden the hearts of sports enthusiasts.

The victory scored by the Army football team over the Royal Air Force in the First Round of the Senior Shield on Sunday has quickly brought a rich reward. The draw for the next round has paired Army and South China—last season's finalists—and there is certain to be a bumper gate to see these traditional opponents battling it out for the right to pass into the semi-final round.

HARD KNOCKS

The game at the week-end was a grand advertisement for Services sport. It was football—a man's game—played as it was intended to be played. Both sides gave everything they had to win; hard knocks were given and taken in fine spirit; and when the final whistle went there were smiles and handshakes all round.

White's goal—a great shot from 30 yards out—was just the sort of counter that was worthy of the victory it carried with it, but it was probably a brilliant save by goalkeeper Charlesworth at a vital stage of the game that took the team through to the next round.

The outstanding player in the Army side was McInnes at right-half. He was always trying to do something constructive with the ball and his hard tackling was again much in evidence.

When novice boxers step into the ring there is always the possibility of thrills and spills. The match at the Missions to Seamen last Thursday between a Royal Navy team and one from 74 LAA Regt RA was no exception to the rule; in fact there was enough action and honest-to-goodness endeavour to satisfy everyone present, no matter which team they had come along to cheer.

If this is any real indication of the strength of the full regimental team of 74 LAA then one must suppose that they are going to have a considerable influence in the various team events during the season. The astonishing displays of courage by Bar Grant and L/4 Carter, against tough fellows

SAD WEEK-END

It was a sad week-end for Army cricketers and the news on Saturday evening that both North and South had been beaten in the Senior League came as a shock to many people. The defeats, however, could not hide the worth of two more brilliant bowling achievements by Nash and Greenhaugh for South and North respectively. Both bowlers were in devastating form but unfortunately batting lapses—and of course good work by the opposition—sent the two League leading teams to defeat.

The draw for the Land Forces Inter-Unit Squash Championships has produced some excellent games and gives promise of more to come. The first round games are as follows:—27 HAA 'B' v 15 Med 'A'; 7 Husars v 42 F.I.A.; 2/2 G.R. v 42 Fd 'B'. These games have to be played off by December 30.

The second round games are as follows:—Winners of 27 HAA 'B' v 15 Med 'A'; 27 HAA 'B' winners v 7 Husars/42 Fd 'B'; 1 King's Own; 15 Med; 173 Locating Bty. All winners in the second round must be completed by January 10.

The December meeting of the Army Football Referees will take place at the Tavern, in Chatham Road, NAAFI, on Saturday next at 11 a.m. The committee hope that many members as possible will make a special effort to attend.

and a timely reminder for all those who are interested in the forthcoming Novices Boxing Championships. The dates for the event are December 19, 20 and 22.

ROAD RACE

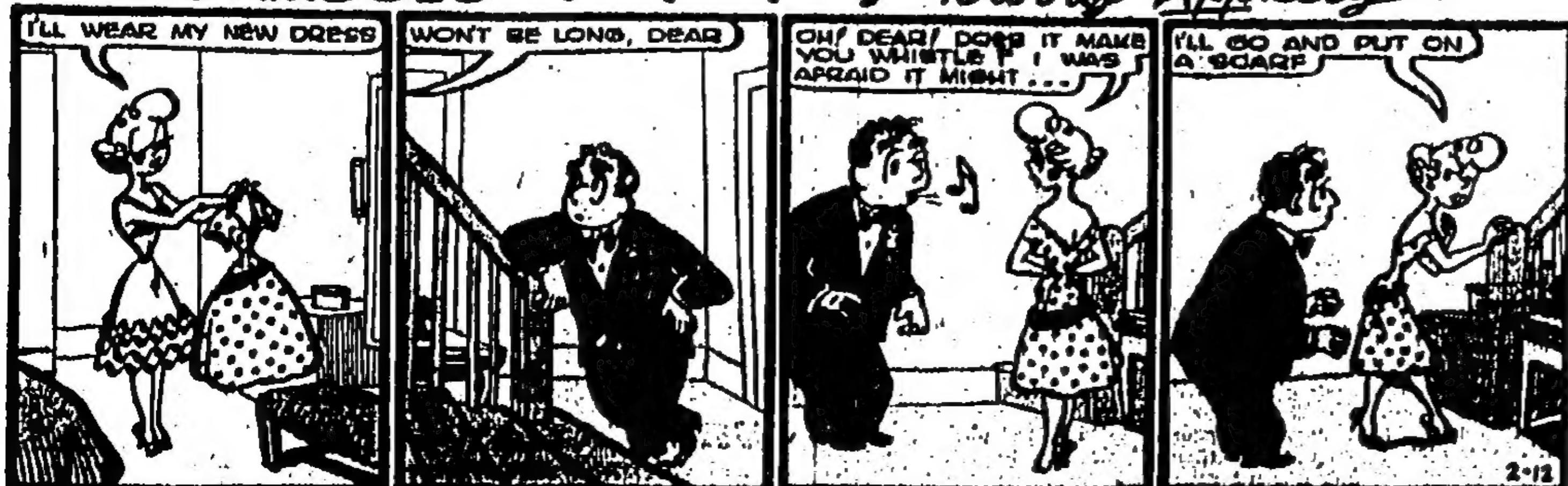
The Colony 10 Miles Road Race will take place on Sunday next. Three Army teams have entered. They are 1 North Staffs, 1 Essex and 1 King's Own. The following five individuals have also entered:—Gnr White, 15 Med Regt (RA); 2/Lt's Brown and Moxon (North Staffs); Lts Burch and Alderton (1 Essex).

The Colony 2 1/2 Miles Road Walk will also be decided on Sunday. There has been only a nominal response to this event and Army representation will be limited to two individual entries from the HK Section Regt. The walkers are L/Cpl H. Wong and Pte Mak Siu-tung. There is also one civilian entry.

The struggle for supremacy in the Land Forces Football Leagues is producing some very fine games and making for several good League races. In the Major Units competition 15 Medium Regt. are setting a hot pace and have so far maintained a 100 per cent record.

The top place in the Minor Units League (HK Section) is ably filled by 187 Bty RA with 8 points from four games, although BME and RHO 37 HAA are right on their tail with only a "single point" dropped. In the Kowloon section of this competition it looks like being a hard battle between Cmd Workshops REME and 6 C.O.P. who are both scoring lots of goals and conceding very few. There is also every indication of a tough tussle in the New Territories section where Movement Light Troop and 27 Lt Bty RA have not lost a point so far and are showing such good form that their meeting should decide the Section Championship.

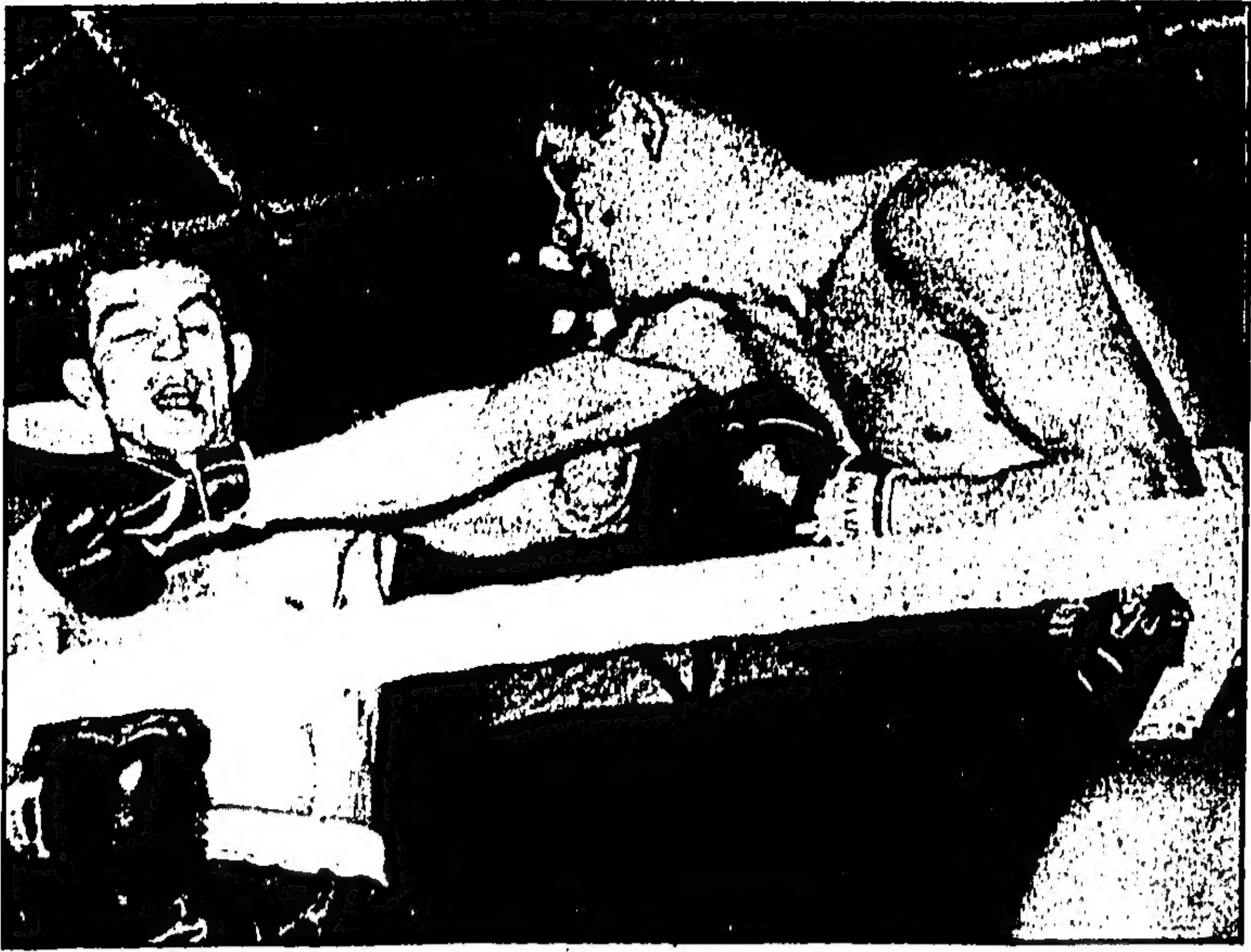
THE GAMBOLS



For the most refreshing THIRST QUENCHER



A LEFT TO THE CHIN



Pat McAteer (Birkenhead) the holder of the title, leads with his left to the chin of his South African challenger Mike Holt, during their British Empire Middleweight Championship fight in Johannesburg last week. — Central Press Photo.

RADIONIC HEALING WAVES

Old Lady's "Magic Box" Baffles Racing Men

An old lady's "magic" black box that seems to turn also-runs into winners—by "remote control"—is baffling Britain's horse-racing men.

The "magic box" is in 75-year-old Miss Mabel Lloyd's 20-roomed home at Somerton in Somerset. It contains coils, a condenser and a resistance, has seven knobs outside.

It looks like a radio set with no aerial, no valves, and no electricity. Yet with only that one hair

diagnose a horse's weakness or to "guide" it, the box—so

goes the claim—can transmit "healing waves" to a horse 100 miles away.

"Radionic therapy" is the scientific term used by Miss Lloyd to describe the "cure."

Hundreds of racehorses have been treated with it. They include all 60 at Mr William Smyth's stable at Arundel Castle.

Among them are horses owned by the Duchess of Norfolk.

SCEPTICAL

Said Mr Smyth: "The Duchess first arranged for the 'magic box' treatment. I was sceptical."

"At mid-summer all our horses were pretty hopeless."

The "box" discovered most of them had liver trouble and stomach weaknesses.

"We investigated their food and found the stock of oats was at fault. Before that bit of trouble we had won about six races. Since we have won 27. It makes you think. Some trainers swear by it."

Up at Newmarket trainer Harvey Leader said: "I am a firm believer in Miss Lloyd."

Then he spoke of the case of the horse Anglo-Iranian, which showed great improvement according to racecourse rumour, after "magic" box treatment.

Said Mr Leader: "The 'magic box' treatment certainly became the talk of the racecourses. But I have no facts to go on to say whether it did improve Anglo-Iranian."

"I have had no other experience of the 'box,' and a lot of people say it is bunkum."

"HEALING WAVES"

It is claimed that the magic box will cure people as well as animals—and jockey Dick Francis declared that its "healing waves" got rid of his chronic hay fever.

The way the "box" works is explained in a pamphlet, which bears the name of Miss Lloyd and Lady Morshead, wife of Sir Charles Morshead, the Queen's Librarian. It says:

"Just as one tunes in a wireless set to the desired station, so a radionic operator tunes in to the wavelength of any part or any nerve of the patient."

The man who makes the "magic" box said: "We have 20 such operators as Miss Mabel Lloyd."

He is 51-year-old, curly-haired Mr George de la Warr. He makes the mysterious boxes at a laboratory at Oxford.

The laboratory employs 12, and costs £12,000 a year. I asked: "Where does the money come from?" He said: "Partly from my wife's practice in Wimpole Street and partly from a syndicate of well-known people."

I said: "You are not a qualified doctor?" He replied: "No. By profession I am an architect."

He claims to cure racehorses' ailments—and people's ailments—as well by "remote control."

The operators of the boxes—call over Britain—require only ONE hair or ONE spot of blood—and they set to work."

Mr de la Warr says every one has an "etheric" body as well as a physical one—and illness develops first in the etheric body. That he says is where the "magic box" takes effect.

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CROWD BOOED JACK GARDNER AFTER FIGHT

Birmingham, Dec. 13.

Jack Gardner, former British Heavyweight boxing Champion, was booed out of the ring at the Embassy Sportsdrome here tonight after he had been awarded a ten rounds points decision over Kiltone Lave of Tonga.

Gardner, who was twice knocked to the canvas in the first round and finished the fight with his face a gory bloody mess, left the ring to a storm of indignation.

Lave, who hung his head in disbelief, when Gardner's hand was raised, got the ovation of a Champion as he went to the dressing room.

The uproar continued into the announcement for the next fight.

Gardner, who meets Don Cockell in London next April for the British Heavyweight title, was almost knocked out in the first round.

Within a minute of the start he was on the floor for the first time in his career. A right chop put him down and although he rose immediately he had little idea of what was going on.

Lave made another hurricane attack and hit the former Champion with a succession of lefts and rights. Gardner again sank to the canvas and was only just up at the count of nine.

Afterwards a dejected Lave said: "I missed my chance in the first round. I still think the fight was mine but the referee's opinion is the one that counts."

Gardner refused to comment on the decision. — China Mail Special.

Four Square Is The New Defence

Says STANLEY MATTHEWS

There is a new design for winning on the Continent—the four-square defence. The South Americans started it and now the Hungarians are changing.

We saw it exploited by the Spaniards at Wembley—but here the plan misfired.

The idea is to square up the defence to meet the new menace from fast, power-wing, thrusts and a punch-packing man in the middle.

The deep-lying centre-forward stunt, which sent us into a panic two years ago, is disappearing.

This is how the plan is supposed to work. The two backs lie right out on the wings. The centre-half stands square with them and the wing-half falls back to make the fourth man.

There is no cross cover in defence. The back's job is to stay with the winger and keep him quiet.

NO NEW PLAN

Now I hear you all say: "That's no new plan. British clubs played that way years ago."

I agree. But don't most of these foreign plans start in Britain? I remember full-backs lying wide. I also remember wing-halves standing way out to mark the opposing wingers.

But in the new version there is an emphasis on speed in defence.

Is this four-square defence a good plan? It works if the backs are fast enough to chase and catch the winger, even after they have been beaten for the ball.

There are advantages of having a defender lying on top of an opponent. He cuts out the

danger of the short pass because he always has a 50-50 chance of the ball.

Under this scheme the short pass to the wing would fail.

The move to beat this close-up defender would be the long through ball. The fast winger likes this pass. He can burst away and cut in for goal. His opponent can be beaten on the turn.

But the long through pass must be 100 per cent accurate and delivered at the right speed.

If the ball is short, the back can intercept. If it is too long, the centre-half can come across to cut it out.

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Thailand Badminton Team To Play Here

The Unity Badminton Team of Thailand, composed of some of the best badminton players in Thailand, will arrive in the Colony on January 14, 1956, to play a series of three matches against Hongkong.

This was announced at an Executive Committee Meeting of the Hongkong Badminton Association yesterday. Dr the Hon A. M. Rodrigues was in the chair.

The team will comprise members and four men players and two women players. They will stay here until January 21.

It was decided by the meeting that two matches would be played in Hongkong on January 16 and 17, and one match will be played in Kowloon on January 19.

It was also announced at the meeting that the closing date for the Schoolboys and Schoolgirls Badminton Championships would be January 7, 1956.

AROUND HOLLYWOOD

MARIO LANZA'S COMEBACK FILM "SERENADE" IS MAGNIFICENT

Says MICHAEL RUDDY

Beverly Hills.

Mid-December in Hollywood and perfect weather after a few days of rain. Smogless skies and bright sunshine. The terrace at Frascati's on Sunset Boulevard was crowded with agents, writers, players and press-agents hunching under the palm trees.

In the "Garden of Allah" swimming pool across the road, four hardy souls were basking in the sun-drenched water and I drove over the speedway to Warner Bros Studios to lunch with Vincent Price playing the manager in Mario Lanza's comeback film, "Serenade" which bears little resemblance to the novel by James Cain about an opera star who falls on evil ways in Mexico.

Cheerful, ebullient, Mr. Price said he was going back to Mexico for Christmas with his wife, Mary Grant, who designed the costumes for "My Three Angels" and "The Vagabond King."

"Paramount Studios boast that they have the answer to Lanza in their Orson Kirok who sang at Covent Garden before coming to Hollywood," said Price. "But this I can tell you. I've never heard a voice to compare with Lanza's in this film. He is magnificent."

EXTREMELY FORTUNATE

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Price studied at Yale, then took his master's degree in fine arts at the University of London and suddenly branched off to the theatre. "I played in 'Victoria Regina' with Pamela Stanley at the Gate in 1935," he said. "Then did the play in New York with Helen Hayes. In both cases I was extremely fortunate."

The Warner Brothers gamble, a three million dollar bet, will probably pay off. "Serenade" is in cinema scope and colour, has Mexican scenery, a fiery Mexican actress, Sarita Montiel, who capably handled Gary

Cooper and Burt Lancaster in "Vera Cruz," Joan Fontaine, Vincent Price and a good supporting cast with Lanza, now in great form.

So much so that he declined an offer of \$20,000 for one song. He was offered this fifteen-minute engagement to sing "Figaro" from "The Barber of Seville" at the opening celebration of a \$20,000,000 Miami hotel, the Seville. All expenses paid.

The actress who was too sexy for BBC television is doing her second Hollywood movie. Valerie French is the girl with William Prince as the young adventurer in "Secret of Treasure Mountain" which she describes as a poor man's "King Solomon's Mines." She wasn't too keen on doing it but I suggested to her that working was better than being on "layoff"—unpaid and as she has moved from the Hollywood Studio Club into a villa above the Sunset Strip, work is essential.

Still the British invade Hollywood. Universal International

have brought John Bentley from London, and for a week he is doing tests before his first Hollywood film is announced. While Edmund Purdom, battling in the divorce courts with his estranged wife, Tita, has left MGM, and will do a movie with Linda Christian, accused of being the woman in the case.

Sign outside a Hollywood carbar: "Six Dancing Girls Five Beautiful Costumes!"

HIS FIRST FILM

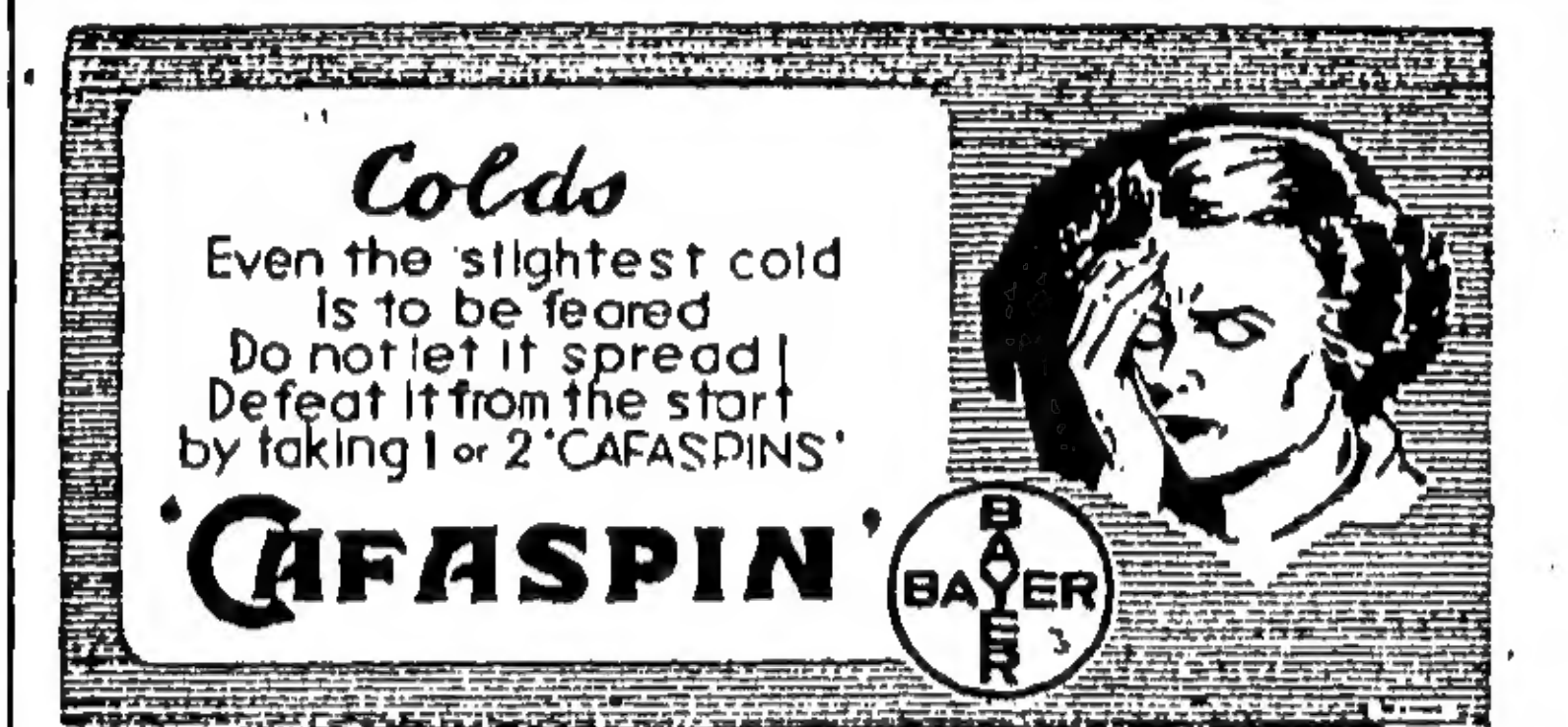
That man with the piano and the candelabra, Liberace, has a shining white Cadillac to match his sheared beaver coat and his white tails and tuxedo. But it will take more than mere ballyhoo to get the people in to see his first film, "Sincerely Yours," which I found far from sincere and yawning in parts. Reports that his TV film was not popular in Britain deeply disappointed Liberace. "I hoped to do a tour in Britain next year," he told me. "Now I don't know."

Footnote: He'll stay home where middle-aged millions love him and his Mom is the best cook in the world.



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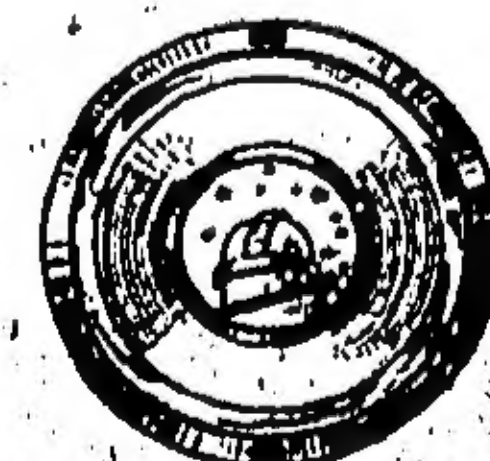
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DEATHS

SOUZA-Joe, dearly beloved husband of Maria da Costa Souza, father of Fatima, Judy, Michael, Gabriel, passed away yesterday, December 13, 1955. Coroner leaving Hongkong Funeral Home 3 p.m. to-day, passing the Monument 5.15 p.m. to Catholic Cemetery.

POSITIONS VACANT

ACCOUNTANCY, BOOK-KEEPING, Company Secretaryship, Costing, Auditing, etc. (For award of Diploma as Associate or Fellow) will be held by the Institute of Accountants, 10, Upper Macao Street, London, W.C.2. Interesting part-time study with expert tuition. Guaranteed Courses for London School of Accountancy, 10, Upper Macao Street, London, W.C.2. For Free Booklet, write Now.

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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

"CALCIUS"

Damaged cargo on this vessel will be surveyed by Messrs. Gossard & Douglas at 10.15 a.m. (Monday) 15th December 1955, and consignees are requested to have their representatives present during the survey.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
Agents.
Hongkong, December 14, 1955

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NOTICE TO PASSENGERS

SAILS: Friday, 16th December, at 12.00 noon for the UNITED KINGDOM via Straits, Colombo, Bombay, Aden & Port Said.

BAGGAGE: Passengers are requested to send ALL BAGGAGE to the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf Co.'s Godown at No. 2 GATE, CANTON ROAD ENTRANCE, by Noon on Thursday, 15th December.

SPECIAL NOTE: With the exception of hand packages carried by passengers themselves, ALL BAGGAGE must pass through the Wharf Co.'s Godown for loading on board by ship's slings only.

EMBARKATION: Passengers should embark between 9.30 and 11.00 a.m. on Friday, 16th December, 1955.

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"CAMBODGE" Jan. 25th } to Marseilles
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FAST FREIGHT SERVICE

"MONEAY" Sailing Jan. 10th } to N. Africa/Europe
"DONAL" Feb. 6th }

ITALIAN FILM PRODUCER
RAISES STORM
Uses Amateurs Instead
Of Famous Stars

By DAVID SELLS

Rome, Dec. 13.

Italy's well-known film director, Vittorio de Sica, who made the film "Bicycle Thieves," is being violently criticised by professional actors for his choice of a Roman waiter's daughter and an unemployed Trieste mechanic to star in his next film, "Il Tetto" (The Roof).

"I have hunted through the streets, factories and fields of Italy to find the right people," declares de Sica. "I am deeply convinced that this type of film, known as neo-realistic, needs non-professional actors. Thirty years of experience in the cinema have taught me that they give me my best results."

But professional actors, who are excluded from "Il Tetto" and most other neo-realistic films, declare that if acting roles are to be filled by the people who live their lives in everyday life, then the actor's livelihood is threatened.

De Sica's most outspoken critic, Oscar Andriani, a young actor and promoter of a professional actors' association, accused him in a recent widely-published newspaper letter of "offending against the work, the sacrifice, the personal and collective dignity of his film colleagues."

ORDER NECESSARY

"Il Tetto" is the story of a penniless young married couple, Natale and Luisa, living with in-laws and struggling to find a home of their own.

In desperation they borrow a small sum of money and, with a gang of building labourer friends (Natale is a builder), put up the skeleton of a house overnight on State-owned railway property.

At dawn a startled policeman discovers the dwelling, but the roof is already in place and under Italian law a court injunction order is necessary to remove the young couple. He peeps through a hole in the unfinished wall, sees Luisa in bed (the sole item of furniture) clutching two infants (borrowed from a friend), and creeps off without even trying to levy a fine. Ejection through the courts will now take months.

For de Sica, "Il Tetto" marks a return to his favourite neo-realistic dramas of everyday life, a style of film which brought Italy to world cinema fame in the first postwar years but which has almost died out. Italian governments have never favoured these films which show poor people living, often cheerfully, but with difficulty. They are "bad propaganda, which gives foreigners the wrong im-

pression about Italy," the Government critics declare.

CAUSE TO WORRY

Trained actors fear that de Sica's example may encourage other Italian directors to return to this once favoured style of film—and use non-professional actors.

De Sica himself says: "I have had long experience of filming and I know what I want. People who are 'the people' instinctively look and move and use the gestures I want to film. For this, they are much better than professional actors."

Why should the choice of a waiter's daughter and a mechanic arouse opposition when most Italian female stars, including Gina Lollobrigida, her red-haired rival, Sophia Loren, Sylvia Mastrani and Sylvia Pampaloni, entered the cinema through winning beauty contests?

"If everyone started making this type of film, then actors would have real cause to worry," he added. But out of 134 Italian feature productions last year

only four or five could be described as "neo-realistic." De Sica also denied strongly Andriani's allegation that he used untrained actors to avoid paying professional wages.

"My aim is purely artistic. In fact, it cost more to use non-professionals. Each scene has to be shot over and over again and their voices have to be dubbed. Filming takes months."

The search alone for a suitable Natale and Luisa, as well as other leading characters, took him months of hard work, involving much travel and the expenditure of 10,000,000 lire (£2,570 sterling).

He had sifted piles of photographs, interviewed thousands of youths at Venice, Vicenza, Verona, Udine, Trieste and other northern cities, in shipyards, factories and on building sites, before meeting 21-year-old Giorgio Liguori in an unemployment queue outside a Trieste labour exchange.

Liguori, an out-of-work mechanic and part-time professional footballer for Trieste's third team, accepted the offer to play Natale on the spot.—China Mail Special.

Pilot To Attack
Heat Barrier.Nail Blacks
Out Town

Port Elizabeth, Dec. 13. A carpenter working on a railway jetty blacked out a large area of Port Elizabeth when he drove a nail through a plank into a 3,800-volt power cable.

He did not even get a shock. His nail caused a short circuit with the lead casing of the cable and opened a sub-station safety switch.—China Mail Special.

Golden Opossum

Wellington, Dec. 13. A golden opossum captured on the West Coast of the South Island is believed to be a specimen unique in New Zealand. Colouring of opossums is usually brown, but vary over reds, blacks, greys and blues with an occasional white albino. This particular animal is thought to be a freak albino.—China Mail Special.

Girls Can Still
Be Abducted
In Russia

By JOHN RETTIE

Moscow, Dec. 13.

Young girls in Soviet Central Asia can still be abducted by fast-riding horsemen and forced into marriage, sometimes with the connivance of local officials of the Communist party or Young Communist League (Komsomol).

In one small settlement in Kirghizia, one of the 16 Soviet Republics, near the Chinese-Turkestan border, 20 school-girls have been abducted this year, according to reports in the Moscow newspaper Komsomol Pravda.

A flagrant case of abduction, with the connivance of the secretary of the Komsomol district committee, a notorious example of "feudal survivals," was described by Komsomol Pravda recently.

The secretary of a local Komsomol committee in effect controls all youth activities in the district. His job includes the organisation of labour parties for special projects, keeping an eye on the education and welfare of young people, planning propaganda, and generally "grooming" young people for the Communist party. He is therefore supposed to be especially "progressive" and "positive."

On hearing her screams, another man entered the room, and Gulbar recognised him as Shamamatov, secretary of the district Komsomol committee. He smiled at her, stroked her head and said kindly: "Calm down, now everything will be all right. You will just have to be more obedient. From today, Maiden is your husband."

20th Abduction

The marriage feast, Komsomol Pravda reported, went on all night.

Meanwhile, the headmistress and other teachers at Gulbar's school were searching everywhere for their pupil. Naturally, they turned to Shamamatov for help.

"Shamamatov listened politely to the headmistress and promised not only to seek out those who practised such feudalistic, tribal customs, but also to punish them severely," said the newspaper.

"We must put a stop to the abduction of girls. Just think, Gulbar is the 20th pupil to have been abducted this year!" he declared in an indignant voice.

When they went back two days later to see if he had found her, Shamamatov appeared to be uninterested in the matter. So they went to Akhunov, the prosecutor.

"You have come to the wrong address," Akhunov declared impatiently. "Shamamatov is hiding the newly-wed couple."

Hardly believing their ears, the teachers hurried to his home. And there, indeed, they found Gulbar, who had been locked up for three days. Shamamatov protested that he knew nothing about it.

But when the teachers began legal proceedings, he took fright at the serious turn of events. After all, Gulbar was still a minor, being under 18.

A Way Out

But, Komsomol Pravda said, Shamamatov found a way out. "With the help of bribery and family connections, he succeeded in setting up a commission to establish the age of Gulbar, although her documents showed that she was born in 1938. A doctor, Akshiev, wrote out a certificate adding a year to Gulbar's age, thus 'proving' that she was of age."

Akhunov, the prosecutor of the Lenin district, adopted an unprincipled attitude, calling off the investigations on the basis of this false evidence. Thus did those who practise feudal customs succeed in "covering up" their dirty business.—China Mail Special.

Mail Notices

The latest times of posting shown below are those for registered correspondence posted at G.P.O. Hongkong. The latest posting times elsewhere which, in general, are earlier will be given by the local office. The latest posting times for registered articles are generally one hour earlier than the times shown below. For details of the parcel rules can be ascertained by enquiry at any post office.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

By Air: Formosa, U.S.A., Canada, 9 p.m.; Thailand, Pakistan, Middle East, Africa and Europe, 9 p.m.

By Surface: Indo-China, 9 p.m.; Macao, 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

By Air: Japan, 9 a.m.; Peking, Shanghai, Harbin, 9 a.m.; Indo-China, 9 a.m.; Thailand, Pakistan, Lebanon, Germany, Great Britain, Nepal.

By Surface: Indo-China, 9 p.m.; Macao, 9 p.m.

By Air: China, People's Republic, 9.30 a.m.; Philippines, 1 p.m.

By Surface: Macao, 1 p.m.; Thailand, 1 p.m.

By Air: Malaya, 9 p.m.; Ceylon, India, Aden, Europe, Reg. & P.P., 9 p.m.; Oran, 9 p.m. on 15/12.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

By Air: Formosa, Japan, Korea & Okinawa, 10 a.m.

By Surface: Guam, Hawaii, U.S.A., 1 p.m.; India, Australia, New Zealand, 1 p.m.

By Air: U.S.A., Canada, 9 p.m.; Thailand, Indo-China, Pakistan, Middle East, Africa, and Europe, 9 p.m.

By Surface: Japan, 9 p.m.; Malaya, Ceylon, India, Aden, Europe, Reg. & P.P., 9 p.m.

By Air: China, People's Republic, 9.30 a.m.; Philippines, 1 p.m.

By Surface: Macao, 1 p.m.; Thailand, 1 p.m.

By Air: Malaya, 9 p.m.; Ceylon, India, Aden, Europe, Reg. & P.P., 9 p.m.

By Surface: Japan, 9 p.m.; Malaya, Ceylon, India, Aden, Europe, Reg. & P.P., 9 p.m.

By Air: China, People's Republic, 9.30 a.m.; Philippines, 1 p.m.

By Surface: Macao, 1 p.m.; Thailand, 1 p.m.

MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

By Lee Falk and Phil Davis



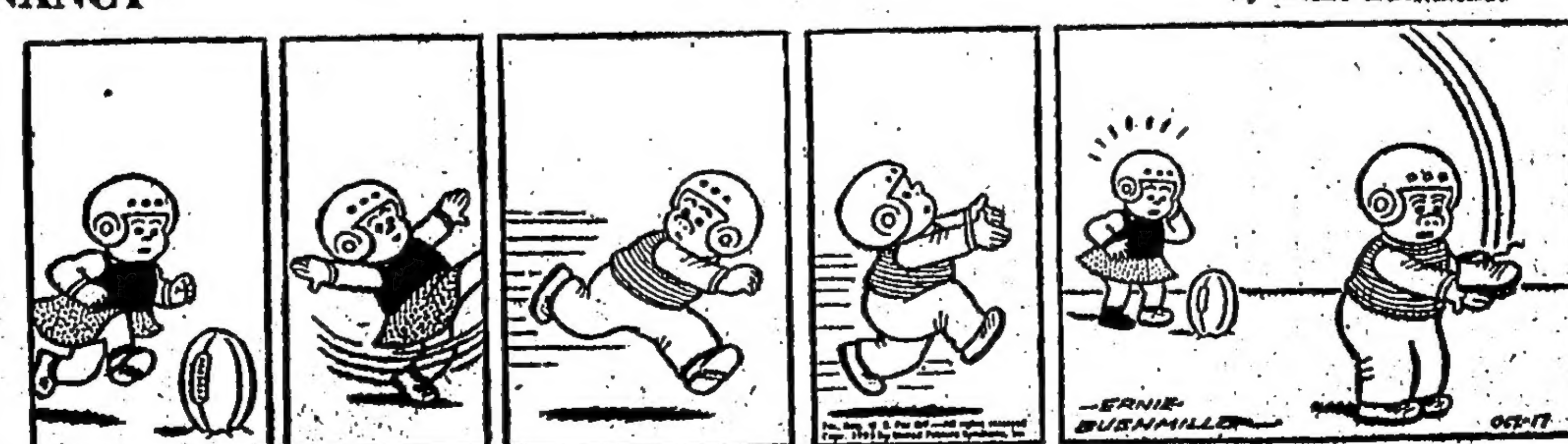
FERD'NAND

By Mik



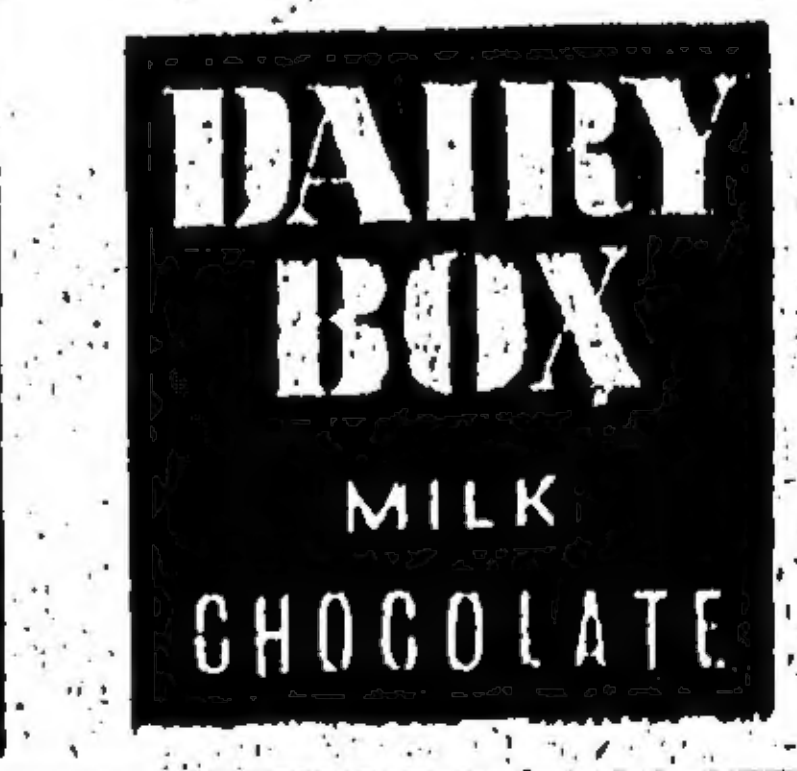
NANCY

By Ernie Bushmiller



JOHNNY HAZARD

By Frank Robbins



TRADE and COMMERCE SECTION

WORLD COTTON MARKETS

New York, Dec. 13.
Cotton futures today opened steady and closed firm.

Final evening-up operations in the December delivery, before its expiration in the noon hour, was the dominant trading feature. December went off the board holding firm at 34.48 cents a pound.

After the spot months expiration, trading turned quiet and the lack of selling pressure made prices sensitive to moderate buying orders. Trade interest bought the nearby months, along with covering by some of Monday's sellers. Investment buying in new crop months was attracted by their wide discount, under the thought of the Commodity Credit Corporation has announced the first opening bids will be conducted on January 3 under the government's plan to sell around a million bales of cotton overseas at competitive prices.

Meanwhile, traders will study the catalogue covering cotton stocks held by the government. Trading volumes and open interest were:

Month	Volume	Open interest
Dec.	49,700	436,900
Jan.	27,100	217,300
Mar.	12,700	101,300
May	44,000	238,800
Jul.	11,000	107,400
Sep.	6,000	122,500
Nov.	2,000	40,700
Dec.	400	11,900
Total	211,200	1,028,000 bales

Prices of futures closed today as follows:

Spot	34.70
Dec.	34.48
Jan.	34.48
Mar.	34.48
May	34.48
Jul.	34.48
Sep.	34.48
Nov.	34.48
Dec.	34.48

NEW ORLEANS
Prices of futures closed today as follows:

Spot	33.50
Dec.	33.50
Jan.	33.50
Mar.	33.50
May	33.50
Jul.	33.50
Sep.	33.50
Nov.	33.50
Dec.	33.50

LIVERPOOL
Future closings, in pence per lb. were as follows:

Old contract	Dec/Jan	28.90
	Mar/Apr	28.10
	May/June	28.10
	July/Aug	28.10
	Sept/Oct	28.10
	Nov/Dec	28.10
	Jan/Feb	28.10
	Mar/Apr	28.10
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CHINA MAIL

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1955.

SHEAFFER'S
Skrip
A few weeks you may be able to buy a record which should appeal to your children, your dog and, in a different way, to your cat. It is a collection of simple melodies "sung" by a quack who is different in many ways, one of them being the number of legs they have, namely twenty-five. Five dogs, trained to bark in tune, have made the recording and the record company concerned have dubbed the musical accompaniment in behind them.

JOHN CLARKE'S CASEBOOK

Underground Resistance

IT was the rush-hour. The atmosphere on the platform of the West End tube station was not unlike that of a scene in an inter-hospital rugby match played without benefit of referee.

The station-master glided down, by escalator, from his office, to do what he might towards seeing there was fair play in the free-for-all in which all fare-paying passengers bought participation when they bought their tickets.

"Move along please, move along," the station-master bellowed.

Passengers, conditioned to obedience, jostled each other away from the commanding voice.

MOVE ALONG PLEASE

"MOVE along please," cried the station-master again. He had noticed a pocket of resistance. A boy and three girls. They looked like (and were) office workers. On several other evenings, the station-master had noticed how slow their obedience was. He made towards them. "Move along, please," he called.

Packed trains came and went. The foursome seemed to the station-master to ignore them. He went for a policeman.

When the station-master returned, with a Transport Commission policeman and a Transport Commission detective in support, the foursome was still there. And they still declined to obey orders.

"You'd better come with me," a policeman said to the boy. "I'm getting out of this," he said, and tried to gain the doors of the bulging train that was then in the station. The three girls bustled around the policeman, who managed, however, to stop the boy.

All four were brought to Clerkenwell court next day, and there they pleaded not guilty to obstructing the police. The story was told to Mr. Frank Powell, the magistrate.

DON'T NAG SO

"THEY just ignored me," said the station-master. "This has been going on for some time..."

"Ah, thank you very much," said the father of one of the 16-year-olds girls. "So you were trying to catch these four? You singled them out every evening, didn't you? Weren't you perhaps a little officious?"

"No," said the station-master, comprehensively. "The railway detective gave his evidence. They were talking and laughing, and refused to move," he said.

The mother of the other 16-year-old girl (the boy and the third girl were 17) began to take the officer to task. "Madam," the magistrate pleaded, "Don't nag so. This is a court of law, not a nagging shop."

MY STORY TALLIES

Evidence, then one by one, the four young people gave theirs. They blamed their long stay on the platform upon the fact that all the trains were full.

We were just flabbergasted when the police came all round us," said one of the girls. "We just stood there, flabbergasted." "My story tallies with hers," said the next girl, after telling her own.

"So I noticed," said the magistrate, drily, and then: "Well, I find this case proved. It is clear that it was necessary for the prosecution to bring the case. If all young people defied the station-master, there would be chaos..."

He discharged the four conditionally, ordering the boy and the eldest girl to pay £22.50, one of the 16-year-olds to pay £2. To the other, who was close to tears, Mr. Powell said: "You seem not to have enjoyed these proceedings like the others. They must pay for their entertainment, you need not."

The four and such of their parents as were present, filed out. They went back to their offices. That night they would go home by tube and would, no doubt, obey the shouts of those whose job it is to see we do what we are told.

Marshall Talks With Lord Reading Today

London, Dec. 14. Mr David Marshall, Singapore's Chief Minister, was today discussing the Crown Colony's economic development plans with the Marquess of Reading, British Minister of State at the Foreign Office, authoritative sources here said.

This was their first meeting since Mr Marshall flew here on Friday last for talks at the Colonial Office on the question of complete internal self-government for Singapore by April, 1957.

The sources said that Lord Reading and Mr Marshall would discuss the Colony's development projects in the context of the 2,000 million sterling six-year "Colombo Plan" for the economic development of South and Southeast Asia. Lord Reading represented Britain at an annual meeting of the "Colombo Plan" ministerial council in October in Singapore.

Mr Marshall and Lord Reading were also expected to discuss trade and other economic questions and the general international situation with particular reference to South-east Asia.

VISIT POSTPONED

Mr Marshall was to have called on Sir Anthony Eden today but this interview has been postponed until Friday morning. The visit had been originally arranged for 11.30 a.m. but Sir Anthony Eden will at that time be presiding over a Cabinet meeting.

Mr Marshall's call has been put off by 48 hours. The Chief Minister who had talks with senior Colonial Office officials on Saturday, Monday and yesterday has no meeting with them today. The remainder of his negotiations here will be with Colonial Secretary, Mr Alan Lennox-Boyd tomorrow and on Friday.

Mr Marshall said yesterday that his delegation had reached "complete cordiality and full understanding" in its talks with Colonial Office experts. His negotiations with them have been completed and briefs have been drawn up for the Colonial Secretary's examination.

EXPLORATORY

The Chief Minister's discussions here are largely of an exploratory nature. These include the fixing of the dates and agenda for a conference in London next Spring, probably April, of all political parties of Singapore to discuss the Colony's constitutional progress. This all-party conference will review the present limited self-government constitution under which elections were held last April when Mr Marshall became Chief Minister.

Mr Marshall was this morning laying a wreath at the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

He was later lunching with members of the United Kingdom branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and in the evening privately addressing the House of Commons Conservative Commonwealth Council and the Conservative Commonwealth Affairs Committee.—Reuter.

Radio Hongkong

H.K.T. 6. Time Signal and Programme Summary: 6.05, Lucky Dip Variety (Studio); 6.30, Weather Report; 7. Time Signal and The News (London); 7.15, The News (Hong Kong); 7.30, Special Announcements; 7.45, Going to the Pictures; 8.00, The News (London); 8.15, The News (Hong Kong); 8.30, The News (London); 8.45, The News (Hong Kong); 9.00, The News (London); 9.15, The News (Hong Kong); 9.30, The News (London); 9.45, The News (Hong Kong); 10.00, The News (London); 10.15, The News (Hong Kong); 10.30, The News (London); 10.45, The News (Hong Kong); 11.00, The News (London); 11.15, The News (Hong Kong); 11.30, The News (London); 11.45, The News (Hong Kong); 12.00, The News (London); 12.15, The News (Hong Kong); 12.30, The News (London); 12.45, The News (Hong Kong); 1.00, The News (London); 1.15, The News (Hong Kong); 1.30, The News (London); 1.45, The News (Hong Kong); 2.00, The News (London); 2.15, The News (Hong Kong); 2.30, The News (London); 2.45, The News (Hong Kong); 3.00, The News (London); 3.15, The News (Hong Kong); 3.30, The News (London); 3.45, The News (Hong Kong); 4.00, The News (London); 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